

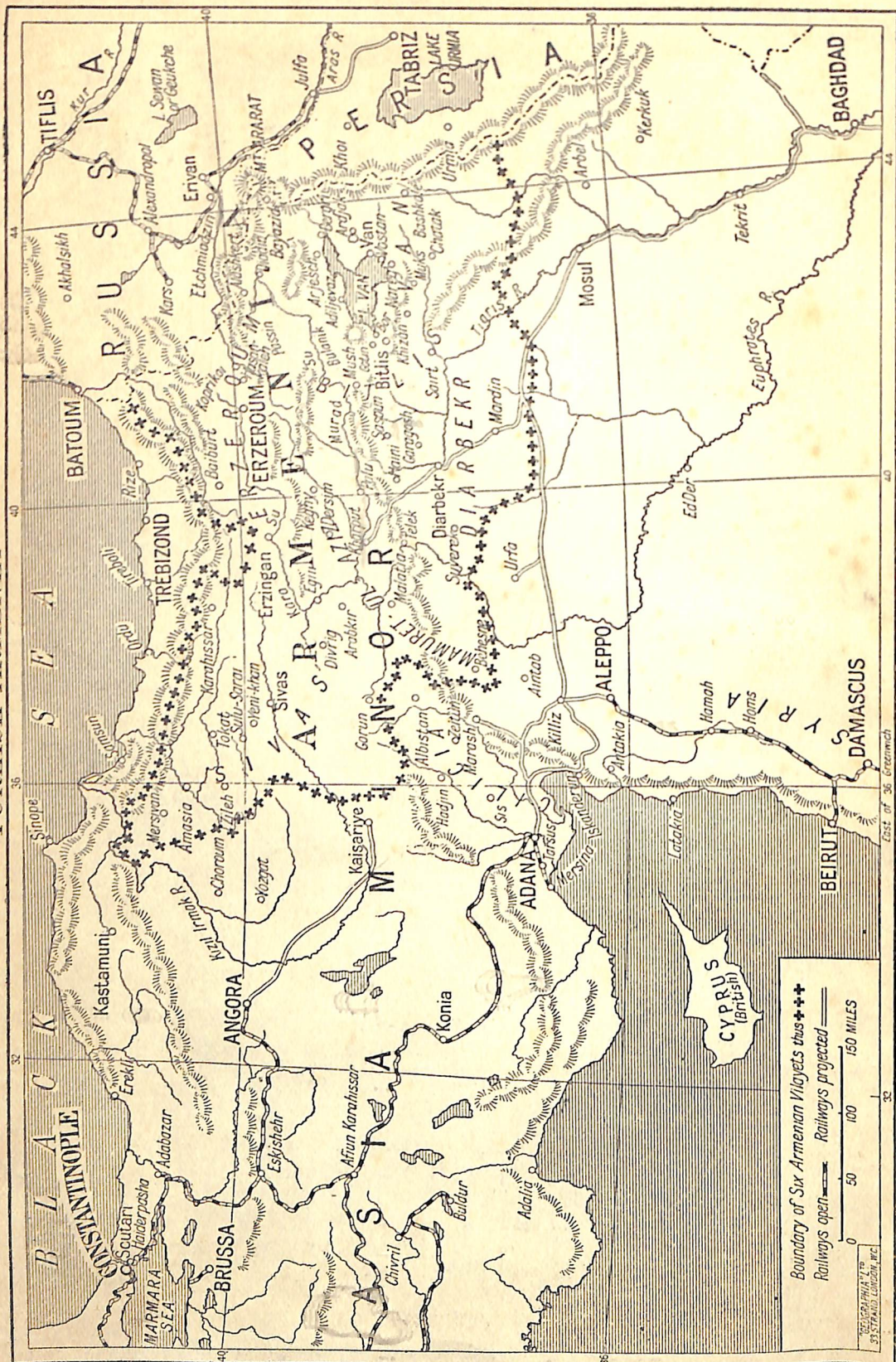
ARARAT

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA
LONDON PRICE 6d



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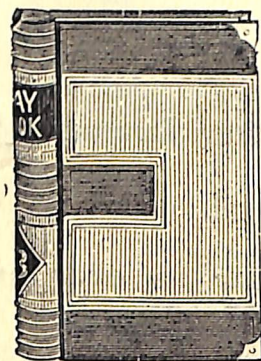
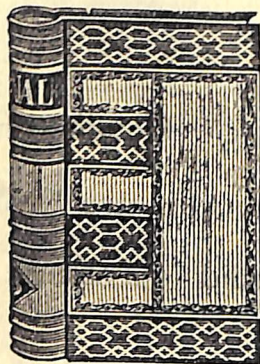
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ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
1. Current Notes	289
2. Russia and Armenia— <i>The Orange Book, X</i> ...	295
3. Horrors in Eastern Armenia—Van Revisited, by A. S. SAFRASTIAN	298
4. A Veteran Publicist	301
5. Sir Edwin Pears, <i>Kt.</i>	303-304
6. The Situation in Armenia, by G. H. PAELIAN	305
7. Conditions in the Caucasus, as reported by a British Consul	312
8. Russian and British Policy towards Armenia, IV, by P. TONAPETEAN	320
9. Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund	328
10. The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, by EMILY J. ROBINSON	330
11. Announcements	333
12. Advertisements	i—x

All communications affecting this periodical should be
addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United
Association of London, 47a, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

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Please help NOW in the humanitarian work of rescuing these people!

Cheques or postal orders should be sent either to the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, to the Fund's Office, or to the Bankers, at the addresses given above.

Current Notes

Our New Year's Greeting to our readers is embraced in the new cover-design to our Magazine, which we feel sure will be appreciated by all for its artistic beauty and its appropriateness; moreover, it is entirely the conception and work of an Armenian, whose kindly New Year's gift it is to us.

The Monastery of Etchmiadzin, with its ancient cathedral, the centre of Armenian religion and learning, backed by towering Ararat, must naturally be the chief figure in all national emblems, and we have adhered to this, more especially for the reason that we adopted the name *Ararat* for our publication. Hitherto our front design has been unpretentious, with a representation of the Cathedral Church, and a line tracing of the peaks behind. Our first three numbers bore a Japanese design which at once brought forth the protest that it was inaccurate, as the crosses on the towers were wanting. We remedied this by a block from a photograph whose accuracy could not be disputed; and now after more than two years of this familiar front, we adopt a design from an etching of a clever artist, who gives point and emphasis to every detail of the conception, and with the rising sun betokens the dawn of a new era for Armenia.

At the foot of the design is a line in Armenian characters from Taghiatiantz's famous song, wherein he supplicates the Almighty to put an end to the horrors of war and to grant Peace to Armenia. The line may be transformed into its English equivalent of "God Save Armenia!" but literally it means "God, grant Thou life to Armenians!" And that the poet's prayer be truly realised in this current year of grace is also the fervent prayer of all Armenians.

One word more as to the young designer, Mr. Vahan Hagopian, of Cairo, who received his training as an architect at the *Ecole des Beaux Arts* in Paris. The initial success of his early training has been followed by several years of practical experience with prominent architects both in France and in England, and we wish him a successful future in his career—it is such as he whose talents are needed in the building up of a New Armenia!

The general situation in the several theatres of war can hardly be called stationary. There are distinct signs that it is developing in more than one direction. With the release of the British force from Gallipoli, and the Indian Expeditionary Force from France, we must before long know where these thousands of veterans, hardened by war, will suddenly reappear. At present their destination has been kept a profound secret. On the Eastern front the hard blows

of General Ivanoff's force have given the Germans a lesson, and necessitated a transfer of some of their army corps from the Balkans to withstand the Russian onslaughts, thus delaying the attack on Salonica, to the advantage of the Allies. The relief of General Townshend in Mesopotamia has not been accomplished yet, the execrable conditions of weather baffling all attempts at advance on the part of the relieving force, though hard fighting has been reported between the Turks and the British. On the Western front in France the usual artillery duels continue, and recently some serious German attempts to break through have been foiled by the French. The small army of Montenegro has practically succumbed to the Austrians, but whether the Montenegrins have actually signed a separate peace with their victors still remains a mystery.

What concerns our readers most is the military situation in Armenia. The Russian offensive in the direction of Erzerum is intended to be a crushing stroke, which we hope will be fully pressed home, and lead to an advance deeper into Turkish Armenia in all directions. This is a formidable stronghold of the Turks—in fact, the key to Armenia; and it has been twice before in the hands of the Russians, first in 1829 when it was captured, and again in 1878, when it was held, after its investment, as a guarantee by Russia, during the peace negotiations, but it was restored to Turkey under the Berlin Treaty. We feel there is something more in this Russian stroke than the mere capture of the fortress, though that of itself would be an achievement of the highest importance. The Asiatic contest seems to be a better thought out piece of strategy between Russia and Great Britain than has appeared on the surface. These two Allies are clearly working in co-operation in this theatre, which stretches from the Persian Gulf in the south to Armenia in the north, and the gradual over-running of Persia by the Russians from the north is a link in this strategy, the object of which seems apparently to be the cutting off of the Turkish forces which have been rushed forward for the defence of Baghdad. It will not be long, we trust, before we hear of the isolation and destruction of the Turkish armies in these regions, hemmed in from the north by Russia, and from the south and west by Great Britain.

To make the situation in Turkish Armenia clear to our readers, we cannot do better than give the original reports issued within the last few days from the Russian Headquarters at Petrograd:—

Jan. 19th.—CAUCASIAN FRONT.—The violent and unexpected thrust by our troops against the centre of the Turkish army resulted in the latter being disorganised and dislodged from

the strong positions which it had organised on the front from the region of Lake Tortum to the region of the River Sharian, north of Melazgert—that is to say, along a front of more than 66 miles, and it is withdrawing in the direction of the fortified plain of Erzerum.

At several points the retreat assumed the nature of a panic-stricken flight. Several Turkish units were almost entirely annihilated, and several hundreds of bodies covered the road of our offensive.

At several places our troops had to advance across heights which towered above the clouds, digging trenches in the deep snow during severe snowstorms.

We occupied the town of Köpri-keui on the Aras, 33 miles east of Erzerum.

Jan. 20th.—Our troops are continuing the pursuit of the centre of the disorganised Turkish Army.

Despite the great strength of the enemy's forces and the extremely difficult local conditions, our troops were able to make their first blow a considerable success. The enemy abandoned his positions and retreated, suffering heavy losses in men and in material of all kinds.

According to information which has just come to hand, we captured at the Turkish town of Köpri-Keui, near Erzerum, guns, munitions, artillery, and prisoners.

The Emperor having learned of the blow struck against the Turks, has ordered his sincere gratitude to be expressed to the gallant and well-tried troops in the Caucasus for their self-sacrificing service and their exploits.

Jan. 21st.—In the coast region the Turks attempted on a wide front to drive back our troops, but were themselves repulsed with heavy losses.

Our units, pursuing the enemy, captured after a fight the town of Hassan Kale, and then drove the fleeing enemy as far as the forts of Erzerum, sabring and taking prisoners over 1,500 Turks, and capturing a gun, much ammunition, and a large camp of tents.

The Turks are retreating precipitately in all directions to the shelter of the Erzerum forts, leaving in our hands magazines, guns, and huge quantities of supplies. Everywhere abandoned cartridges and weapons litter the ground, and stragglers crowd the roads.

On the southern shore of Lake Van our troops drove back the Turks to the west of Vostan.

Jan. 22nd.—The pursuit of the centre of the Turkish Army, which is retreating precipitately from the region of Lake Tortum, continues. We are capturing prisoners, arms, cartridges, munitions, and stores of all kinds.

The Cossacks charged the Turkish rearguard near the Erzerum forts and sabred several hundred Turks and captured over 1,000 Askaris. The remainder of the rearguard fled into Erzerum.

Our artillery bombarded the Erzerum forts.

Jan. 28th.—In a fight in the region west of Melazgert we crushed a large Turkish column and took prisoners 17 officers and 274 men. We also captured a large quantity of arms and munitions, including tens of thousands of cartridges and ammunition carts.

Our troops, pursuing the fleeing enemy, entered the town of Khryskala between Erzerum and Mush, close on his heels. Here they found, besides troops whom they took prisoners, large reserves of munitions and supplies for the Turkish Army. The Turks are fleeing towards Mush.

We give below a few of the telegrams received from responsible and trustworthy sources within the last month regarding the state of the refugees and conditions in Turkish Armenia. The following reached Lord Bryce :—

Erivan, January 10.

Refugees just arriving from Mush state in answer Government amnesty 1,500 Sassun Armenians forced by famine cold, surrendered authorities end November. By order Governor Mush men massacred, women children drowned Euphrates.

This telegram, which has been received from the frontier of Russian Transcaucasia and Asiatic Turkey, seems to show the final destruction of the unfortunate Armenian peasantry, who had fled to the mountains to escape massacres. They were of the manliest and most secluded part of the Armenian nation, leading a quiet life in their remote valleys.

Mr. Samson Ahroutounian, the President of the Armenian War Victims' Committee at Tiflis, in acknowledging a remittance from the Lord Mayor's Fund, adds the following in his telegram :—

In face of enormous suffering of refugees here, there are cases of actual starvation and a growing rate of sickness and mortality. Larger sums are required to relieve to some extent urgent needs for food and clothing for destitute refugees.

Mr. Khadisoff, the Mayor of Tiflis, thus wires to the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugees' Fund :—

Received with deep gratitude for relief of Armenian refugees total sum 116,675 roubles and remitted to Catholicos of All Armenians at Etchmiadzin.

The progress of the three Armenian Relief Funds in London continues satisfactorily, and we give here an abstract of their position up to the time of going to press. The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, which had reached £21,000 at the time of our last issue, has now passed the total of £27,000. The Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund, which is under our own control, has now increased from £11,900 to nearly £14,000 ; and the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund shows an increase from £4,600 to over £5,300. All three Funds between them aggregate a sum of over £46,000 against a total of £37,500 recorded last month. As we go to press we are able to inform our readers that a very generous helper, who prefers to remain "an anonymous friend," has placed at the disposal of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund the handsome contribution of Consols amounting to £8,300. When this stock is converted into cash, it will probably realise about £4,800. The deep gratitude of Armenians is due to such "anonymous friends" who live for the cause of humanity and hide their generous instincts under a bushel. Would there were many more such to wage their righteous war against the deadly need that is laying low our countrymen !

Last month we printed the Archbishop of Canterbury's appeal to the Church of England to set apart Sunday, February 6th, as a day of Intercession on behalf of the Armenian and Assyrian peoples in their dire extremity, when collections were suggested on their behalf. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster also signified his approval of this proposal for the Roman Catholic churches ; and this has been followed by the heads of the Free Churches. To bring the matter home to the church-going population, effective posters and circulars have been distributed by the thousand to every Christian denomination for what is known as "Armenia Sunday," and we trust that the response will go towards appreciably augmenting the available balance of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund. A step of this kind needs much organising power, and this has been effectively undertaken by the Rev. Harold Buxton, the Hon. Secretary of the Fund.

Besides the Church Intercession and collection, secular aids for raising funds have not been wanting. On January 21st the Pattie Mayor Dance Recital took place at the Æolian Hall, when there were Spanish, Russian and Gypsy dances interspersed with songs, the net proceeds being devoted to the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund. And then again we are informed that in December his Excellency the Governor of Bengal honoured with his presence at the Grand Opera

House in Calcutta the performance of "Jack Straw" by the Howitt-Phillips Company in aid of the Armenian Refugee Fund, to which sixty per cent. of the gross proceeds of the performance were to be devoted.

Regarding the Armenian refugees in Egypt, we take the following interesting account from the *Times of India Illustrated Weekly* :—

Armenian refugees have now ceased to arrive in Egypt, temporarily at any rate, but there are still between ten and twelve thousand camped near Port Said. Everything possible is being done for these poor people in their hour of misery, and never perhaps has England shown the greatness of her generosity so well before. Last week Sir Henry MacMahon went to Port Said to visit the camp which he was shown over by Monsignor Torghom of the Armenian Church in Egypt and Madame Nedourian, President of the Armenian Red Cross Society in Cairo, and Mdlle. Calfaian, President of the local Armenian Committee. The High Commissioner spent two hours in the camp, making a minute examination of everything, and conversing personally (in Persian) with some of the refugees who were able to talk that language. When leaving he impressed upon those present that if anything were wanted, he was to be advised at once. There is a wealthy Armenian community in India, especially in Calcutta. If its members have not already done so, they cannot do better than subscribe liberally to the upkeep of their poor fellow countrymen and women now at Port Said. Never were people—many of them once opulent—reduced to such dire straits. Added to their destitution is the appalling misery of fathers bemoaning lost sons and mothers bewailing the fate, which in most cases will not bear even thinking of, of missing daughters. Mr. Papasian, Secretary of the Sudan Armenian Society, recently called a meeting in Khartoum of the Armenians there and in Omdurman and £E.1,250 was raised on the spot for the Armenian Relief Fund in Egypt, of which Boghos Pasha Nubar is the President.

As we go to press we are able to inform our readers that at the Annual General Meeting of the Armenian United Association, just held, Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Gregory, V.D., was re-elected President, and that the three other vacancies on the General Council were filled by Messrs. H. N. Mosditchian, N. P. Hacobian, and James A. Malcolm.

Russia and Armenia.

The Orange Book.

(Continued from page 258.)

X.

Through all the tortuous courses of Turkish diplomacy, complicated further by German intrigues, at times reaching a point which threatened a collapse of the negotiations, we find ourselves at last on a smooth sea of agreement between the two Powers mainly interested in the question of Armenian reforms. The academic interest which attaches to past negotiations does not discount from the intense importance of the matter which, sooner or later, must again come before the Powers. We give below—

Document No. 147, which is the text of the Russo-Turkish agreement on the Armenian Reforms :—

It is agreed between His Excellency M. Constantine Kulkevitch Chargé d'Affaires of Russia, and His Highness the Prince Said Halim Pacha, Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman Empire, that simultaneously with the appointment of the two Inspectors-General, before they are placed at the head of the two sectors of Eastern Anatolia, the Sublime Porte will address to the Great Powers the following note :—

"Two foreign Inspectors-General will be placed at the head of the two sectors of Eastern Anatolia, Monsieur A— at the head of the sector comprising the vilayets of Erzeroum, Trebizond and Sivas, and Monsieur B— at the head of the sector comprising the vilayets of Van, Bitlis, Kharput and Diarbekir.

The two Inspectors-General will have control of the administration of justice, police and gendarmerie of their respective sectors.

In the event of the forces at their disposal not proving sufficient to maintain public order, at their request, military forces will be placed at their service for the prosecution of executive measures undertaken by them within the boundaries of their sectors.

The Inspectors-General, in the event of necessity arising will be empowered to dismiss officials whose misconduct and incapacity are beyond question, and, further, to prosecute such of these officials who have committed acts which lay them open to punishment. They will also have the power to fill such vacancies with candidates who fulfil the terms and qualifications laid down for service, in place of officials

thus dismissed. They will have the right to nominate superior officers to the Government of His Majesty the Sultan, for appointment. In cases of dismissal of officials, they must notify their action to the Ministries concerned by short telegraphic reports explaining the justification of the step taken; they will then, within the following week, forward to such Ministry a detailed account of the causes and the deeds which have necessitated the dismissal of the officials.

In important cases which may call for immediate action, the Inspectors-General will have the right to dismiss immediately the immovable officials of the judicial service, on condition that the Department of Justice be informed of the circumstances of each such case.

In the event of such a step as dismissal being found necessary with regard to Valis, the Inspectors-General must submit such question to the Ministry of the Interior, which must, in its turn, hold a Council of Ministers and decide the case within a maximum limit of four days after the receipt of the telegram from the Inspectors-General.

Agrarian disputes will be decided under the direct supervision of the Inspectors-General.

Further detailed instructions with regard to the duties and powers of the Inspectors-General will be elaborated after their appointment and with their collaboration.

In the event of the office of an Inspector-General becoming vacant within the ten years for which he is appointed, the Sublime Porte will leave to the good will and the support of the Great Powers the task of appointing a new Inspector-General.

The laws, decrees and official notices will be published in each sector in the local languages. Every individual will have the right to use his own language in the courts and in the administration, whenever the Inspector-General considers it possible. Judicial decisions will be drawn up in Turkish and will be translated into the local languages as far as possible.

The share which will be allotted to each community from the budget, towards public instruction in each vilayet, shall be determined by the proportion of its contribution to the taxes taken for public instruction. The Imperial Government will place no obstacles in the way of members of a community participating in the support of their own schools.

Each Ottoman must fulfil his military obligations in time of peace and tranquility in the region of the military Inspectorate in which he lives. Nevertheless the Imperial Government may send, until new orders are given, to the distant provinces of Yemen, Assir and Nadjd the contingents of the army raised from all parts of the

Ottoman Empire in proportion to the populations there established. It will enrol, in addition, in the navy conscripts drawn from all parts of the empire.

The Hamidié regiments will be transformed into cavalry reserves. Their arms will be kept in the military depôts and will not be distributed to them except in case of mobilisation or manœuvres. They will be placed under the orders of military officers of the army of their respective districts. In time of peace the commanders of the regiments, squadrons and sections will be chosen from the officers of the active Imperial Ottoman Army. The soldiers of these regiments will be submitted to a military service of one year. In order to be admitted into them they must provide their own horses with all their equipment. All persons, regardless of race or religion within the districts, submitting themselves to these requirements, may be enrolled in the said regiments. When called for manœuvres or mobilisation, these troops will be submitted to the same disciplinary measures as regular troops.

The competency of the General Councils of the vilayets is fixed in accordance with the legal principles of March 13th, 1329/1913.

A definite census, which will proceed under the supervision of the Inspectors-General with the least possible delay—not exceeding one year—will establish the exact proportion of the different religions, nationalities and languages in the two sectors. Meanwhile the members of the General Councils (*Medjlissi Oumoumi*) and the committees (*Endjouden*) of the vilayets of Van and Bitlis will be half Musulmans and half non-Musulmans. In the vilayet of Erzeroum, if a definite census is not taken within a year, the members of the General Council will be elected on the basis of equality, as in the case of the two above-mentioned vilayets. In the vilayets of Sivas, Kharpout and Diarbekir the members of the General Council will, from now onwards, be elected on a basis of proportion. For this purpose, and until a definite census is made, the number of Musulman electors will remain determined according to the list which served as a basis for the last elections and the number of non-Musulmans will be fixed according to lists which will be presented by the several communities. If, however, material difficulties make this provisional electoral system impracticable, the Inspectors-General will have the right of proposing another distribution, with a different basis of proportion, of the seats for the General Councils of the three vilayets of Sivas, Kharpout and Diarbekir, which would seem better adapted to the needs and the actual conditions of the said vilayets.

In all the vilayets where the General Councils are elected on the principle of proportionality, the minorities will be represented in the committees (*Endjouden*).

The members of the administrative councils will be, as in the past, half Musulmans and half non-Musulmans.

As long as the Inspectors-General find nothing inconvenient, the principle of equality between Musulmans and non-Musulmans will be applied for the recruiting of the police and the gendarmerie, in the two sectors, according as vacancies occur. The same principle of equality will apply, as far as possible, to all other public offices in the two sectors.

As an evidence of good faith the undersigned have subscribed to the present document and have thereupon placed their seals.

(Signed) KULKEVITCH.

SAID HALIM.

Constantinople, *January 26th—February 8th*, 1914.

(To be continued.)

Horrors in Eastern Armenia— Van Revisited.

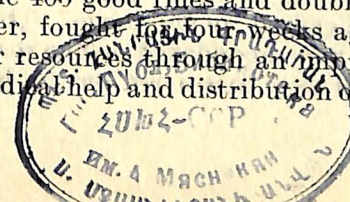
"I have seen the ravages of the Crimean war, the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78, the Armenian massacres of 1894-96, and the reign of terror which then followed until the year 1914; but the massacres which have been going on since April of the current year are merely appalling, and by far the most terrible blow which the Armenian nation has ever been subject to throughout the course of its long history,"

so spoke to me Hagop Boghossian, an old Armenian peasant of Van, a sturdy octogenarian who, after three forced flights from his home in the rear of the Russian army, was once more returning to his home to tide over the winter in his native village north of Lake Van; and as he was walking along the muddy pathway, he was telling me the story of the recent massacres as he knew them, and as he understood them from his own point of view. His account in its main outline corresponds with what has been proved beyond all doubt. Before arousing any suspicion among the Armenians residing in the central provinces of Asiatic Turkey about its intentions, the Turkish Government wanted to dispose of the "rebellious" Armenians of Van which lay far away from its grip, and the Armenian element of which had generally been considered by the Turks as a doubtful quantity. One Djedvet Bey, a brother-in-law of Enver Pasha, happened to be the governor and the military commander of Van. In February he was routed in the battle of Diliman and Khoi, in Azerbaijan, a battle in which the Armenian volunteers under Andranik played some part. When he

returned to Van, he told his friends that while he was at the front he had to battle throughout the time against Armenians, both as regular troops of the Russian army and as volunteers. The report says that Enver Pasha, the Minister of War, expressed almost the same opinion when his army was defeated early in January in the battles of Sarikamish and Ardahan. However exaggerated these estimates may have been, they seem to have served well the purpose of the Turkish Government in its efforts to destroy the Armenian population within its territory. And Djedvet Bey was commissioned to begin the massacres at Van, where the best relations existed between Armenians under Vramian, the deputy from Van in the Turkish chamber, and Djedvet himself, who for years had enjoyed the hospitality of the natives.

On the 15th of April young Armenians of Akantz, north of Lake Van (Ardjish) were gathered together by gendarmes at the sound of the bugle, so that there should be read to them an order which had just arrived from the Sultan. At sunset these 500 young men were shot outside the town without any formality. In the following two days the same process was carried out in a heartless and cold-blooded manner in the 80 Armenian villages of Ardjish, Adiljevas, and the rest of the district north of Lake Van. In this manner some 24,000 Armenians were killed in three days; their young women carried away and their homes looted. Djedvet Bey immediately proceeded to destroy the able-bodied Armenians in the south of the lake in the same way. Kurds were let loose upon the peasants of the *Cazas* of Moks and Shatakh, but there these hardy mountainers proved somewhat hard nuts to crack; and they put up a stout resistance and frustrated the Turkish plan.

In the town of Van itself the Armenians had already made all the concessions they possibly could to conciliate the Government in the matter of deserters from the army and the military requisitions. Djedvet, however, demanded unconditional surrender; he treacherously caused the death of four Armenian leaders, and detained Vramian, who was killed afterwards. These acts, accompanied with the massacres of Ardjish, cleared up all doubts. The Turks had made up their minds to annihilate the Armenians by all the means in their power, as they had shown it by killing thousands of absolutely innocent peasants in Ardjish. The experience of the past had taught the Armenians of Van that appeal to arms was the only argument which might save their life, honour and property; and they collected together all the arms they possessed. From the middle of April they were besieged by a Turkish army of about 6,000 men with artillery and numberless Kurds of all types. Twenty-five thousand Armenians of the town, who had only some 400 good rifles and double that number of arms of a medley character, fought for four weeks against great odds. They organised all their resources through an improvised staff, and various committees for medical help and distribution of relief. They constructed



some mortars and made smokeless powder to repel the furious Turkish attacks. Every man, woman and child did their bit to help in the work of liberation; they held their positions to the last and captured several enemy positions by blowing up barracks in which the Turks had entrenched themselves in the middle of the Armenian quarters. After seeing something of their positions and walking over the scenes of the fight, one can well understand that it must have been a heroic battle indeed. The Turks under Djedvet despaired of overcoming Van and fled hastily at the approach of the Armenian volunteers followed by the Russian army. Van was captured by the Armenians, who saluted the entry of the Russian army by the booming of the guns they had taken from Turks. An Armenian provisional government was established in the town and the province from early June. Excesses of an avenging nature could scarcely be avoided under the circumstances; yet by no means did such excesses overstep the feelings of wrath produced at the moment.

During June and July, almost the entire Armenian population of Bitlis, Mush, Diarbekir, and the rest of the provinces of Turkish Armenia was ruthlessly massacred or deported. Of this unparalleled tragedy the later events occurring at Van, the luckiest of all, may serve as an illustration.

After two months of self-government in Van, the fortunes of war turned against the Armenians. Towards the end of July the Turks took the offensive on the Transcaucasian front. The Russians retreated from the Euphrates and Mush towards their own frontiers in order to counter-attack the enemy under more favourable conditions. But in this game of strategy, the quarter million Armenians of Van, Alashkerd, etc., the last remnant of the Armenian element of Eastern Turkey had also to retreat towards the Russian frontier. Men, women and children, who had bravely defended themselves against the Turks, fled in a panic under the most adverse circumstances. There were no means of transport, except some ox-carts, horses, donkeys and cows, and the distance to be crossed varied from 100 to 150 miles through a waterless and trackless country; only a few hours' notice was given to the unprepared people to quit their homes, abandon all they possessed, and to walk to Transcaucasia. Every one burdened himself with some clothing and provisions, and, followed by exhausted women and children, walked for 10 days under the burning August sun, smothered in dust, and overcome by thirst and fatigue. On the Bargri bridge (north of Lake Van) the rear of the caravan was attacked by mounted Kurds. A frightful panic ensued in which women and girls threw themselves into the river Bendimahu, others threw away their infants and tried to escape; while entire families rolled into the waters owing to the rush caused by the panic. The sick, the infirm, and hundreds of children were abandoned on the roadside, where they died in lingering agony or were massacred by the Kurds.

On my way to Van along the north-eastern shore of the Lake I witnessed a disgusting picture of the recent events. Several searching parties had already buried the dead and cleared the ground; nevertheless here and there I saw remains of human bodies, of men and women, under blocks of stones and scattered about the roadside. I discovered decomposing and horribly disfigured bodies of children; and on the shores of the lake and on the banks of streams skeletons, pieces of clothing, bones of human beings and animals lying all around. The stench of putrefaction was simply sickening. The country from Igdir to Van had indeed been a slaughter-house but a few months before. Entire villages had been completely wiped out. Except for some casual travellers, not a single human soul was to be seen there—there were but vultures and howling dogs who fed upon the putrefied human remains.

The town of Van itself is mostly a heap of ruins; since last August it has changed hands several times; all churches, schools and the best houses have been burnt down; the pulse of life seemed to have ceased from beating, where a few months ago the natives had turned it into a beehive after capturing it from the Turk. On the other hand the remnant of the Armenians from Turkey is being greatly diminished owing to destitution and sickness across the borders of Transcaucasia. The whole country is devastated beyond any description. Perhaps nowhere on the European battlefields has the civil population been so sorely tried as in the Armenian highlands, and no race has suffered so much as the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey. At present only some 200,000 of them can be accounted for; and these are dying by hundreds in Transcaucasia in consequence of the terrible sufferings they have gone through since last spring.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

Van, *December 2nd*, 1915.

A Veteran Publicist.

Sir Edwin Pears' long, distinguished and useful life falls into two nearly equal periods. Born in 1835, he spent practically his first forty years in England. As that was the period in which his work, though full of value and importance as a foundation for his future career, was not directly concerned with matters in which the readers of *Ararat* are interested, we will content ourselves with stating quite briefly its outstanding features.

Sir Edwin Pears finished a brilliant career at the University of London by coming out first in the First Class of the Honours List in Roman Law and Jurisprudence. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, where he was elected Exhibitioner of Constitutional Law and Modern History. These scholastic successes pointed the way to the future career in which his best and most brilliant work

was done. This, however, belongs to the second period of his life. But in the latter half of the first period he had already made his mark as General Secretary of the Social Science Association from 1868 to 1873, and of the International Prisons Congress in 1872, the Transactions of both of which were edited by him, as also was the *Law Magazine*.

The second, and for us the more interesting, period of Sir Edwin Pears' life began when he left England in 1873 for Turkey—the country with which his name and reputation will always be most closely associated. Settling in Constantinople, where he practised in the Consular Courts, becoming President of the European Bar in 1881, he was soon recognised as a leader and a man of authority. His popularity was by no means confined to his own countrymen and the other foreign residents. Those who knew Constantinople at that time saw how among the better and more enlightened Turks, and even in the official circles of the Porte, Sir Edwin Pears exercised an influence of a remarkable character, and they were always anxious to know what his opinion was of political events and movements affecting the country. His wide knowledge of Modern History and his trained legal mind enabled him both to understand and to interpret the signs of the times, and to foresee results where others saw only events. Moreover, he had lived through the period of the Crimean War, and by the time when he had settled in Constantinople, the causes and the effects of that war had begun to be realised by most thinking Englishmen, though not all of them had yet arrived at the judgment afterwards pronounced by the late Lord Salisbury, that in backing Turkey "we had put our money on the wrong horse." Exactly when and how far Sir Edwin Pears came to a similar decision it is impossible to say; but the Turks soon had reason to know that in him they had "a chiel amang them takin' notes," and notes of which they would have been glad to stop the publication. Those who are old enough to remember the great crusade led by Gladstone against Turkey on account of the "Bulgarian Atrocities" in 1876 know that the heather was first set on fire by the letters written to the *Daily News* in May and June of that year. Of those letters Sir Edwin Pears was the author, and to his vivid and unsparing revelations of the brutality of the Turks in their suppression of the Bulgarian revolution, though sneered at by Disraeli as "coffee-house babble," Englishmen must justly ascribe the beginning of their emancipation from the insane and iniquitous Turcophile policy which had so long been traditional in this country.

Ever since that date Sir Edwin Pears has, by pen and by voice, consistently and bravely championed the cause of the oppressed subject peoples of the brutal and effete Turkish Empire, and amongst them that of the Armenians, of whose sad history there are very few Englishmen who have written and spoken with such intimate knowledge and with so much sympathy as he has. A true Liberal by conviction, an inveterate hater of cruelty and injustice, a staunch

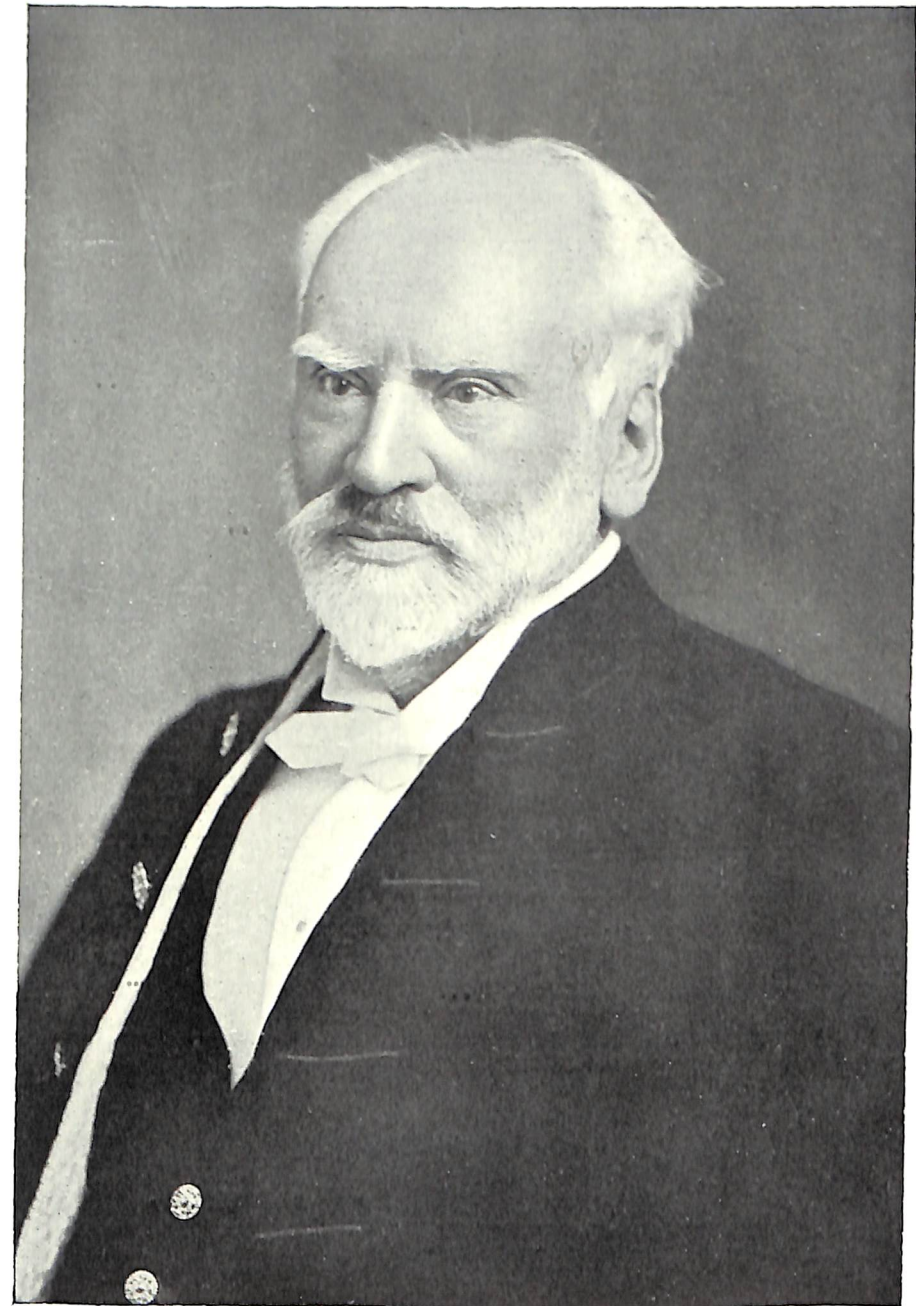


Photo. by Elliott & Fry, Ltd.

SIR EDWIN PEARS, Kt.

champion of law and order in the government of a people, a lover of freedom, Sir Edwin Pears has devoted a very long and noble life to the maintenance of principles which are especially sacred to all true Armenians.

The Situation in Armenia.

The reconstruction of Armenia.—After the terrible Armenian massacres of 1895–1896 a missionary said, “I know much about the history of nations and their great deeds, but I do not find any example resembling the rapid improvement of this nation after such an awful blow.” This is the testimony of a man who lived among the Armenians and knew them, and drew this conclusion from his own observation. It is this indomitable courage and perseverance of our countrymen in the past that forebodes the failure of the present Turkish plan of exterminating the race and makes us hopeful for the future, even in this darkest hour of our nation’s history. The reconstruction of Armenia has already begun, and it will only be a matter of time, after the storm is past, and an opportunity arrives for the new Armenia to be built up.

At the request of some prominent Armenian refugees in Transcaucasia Col. Alfred Dermen, the Governor of Van, suggested that a committee should be formed in Tiflis which should supervise the formation of a voluntary militia at Van. The object of the militia should be to carry out the work of reconstruction of ruined Vaspouragan. Such a committee was formed from among prominent Armenians under the ægis of the Catholicos, and has been officially recognised by the Russian military authorities.

The militia has already 200 volunteers under the leadership of Armenak Yerganian of Van, who showed great ability in the fight for the liberation of that city. The Russian Government furnishes all munitions, and the Armenian population of the Van district provides the daily expenses of this militia. Besides this voluntary militia, Col. Dermen has a body of 100 cossacks who accompany him. The Governor distributes land to the returning refugees and provides facilities for cultivating it. Already 6,000 refugees have returned to Van and are building up their houses and starting business again. Under the supervision of the militia the cleansing of the city is being carried on; four or five flour mills are already running and two ovens have been opened, so that now it is possible to bake bread. Several lunch rooms and cafés, also some repair shops and stores have been started for business. Meat, butter, cheese, etc., are very scarce, though it is possible to obtain small quantities of some of these products from Persia. The peasants are trying to bring in the remnants of the harvest which was left in the fields last autumn. They have

secured a few machines for this purpose. The Government is devising plans for providing them with agricultural machines and implements, seed and oxen for the coming spring.

The military authorities have opened an orphanage which is caring for about 80 children. Besides the orphans, their care is also extended to the helpless women and the sick.

Some of the plundered goods have been returned to their rightful owners, others have been stored in safe places. Fortunately the manuscripts and all the books of the Varaka museum were left unharmed. These have been removed to Van, whence they will be transferred to Etchmiadzin by order of the Catholicos.

The villages around Van, where the Armenians have returned, are protected by gendarmerie who have been locally constituted. And the Government has established a law court, a police force, a sanitary committee, a food distributing committee, etc.

The reconstruction committee has requested the Catholicos to send several vartabeds (monks) to look after the monasteries, as most of these have been left without any one to care for them.

This is only the beginning, and the world will again see the rising of this martyr nation from the smouldering ruins of her homes, and take her place among the civilised nations of the world, continuing to fulfil her mission of being the leaven in the lump of that people who have deliberately sought her destruction.

Nazarian's Restaurant-shelter.—In the last issue of *Ararat* a brief outline was given of the relief work which was being done in Transcaucasia. Towards this benevolent work should be added a word for the good work which is being done by M. Tigran Nazarian, the editor of "Taraz." On the first of last August M. Nazarian opened a restaurant-shelter at Tiflis in a large vineyard through the medium of his own and other voluntary contributions. At first about 300 refugees visited the shelter. They all received bread and tea in the morning, a meat dinner, and bread and tea for supper. The primary object of the Shelter was to give food and shelter to the refugees, but later on an employment bureau was started in connection with it, and through its intermediary about 500 people have found work, while medical aid has been given to the sick, and clothing and bedding distributed to the needy. A school, too, has been started for the children under the name of *Vaspouragan*. In the evenings the refugees are given instruction in the elementary sciences, national history, etc.

During the months of August and September the refugees had their meals in the vineyard, but as the weather grew colder, a large building was put up as a shelter. It is a remarkable fact that when cholera and spotted fever were raging in Tiflis last summer, not one case was reported among the refugees of Nazarian's shelter. This was due to the location of the restaurant-shelter in the spacious vineyard and to M. Nazarian's special precautions that absolute cleanliness should prevail throughout the grounds.

The Catholicos has seen this splendid work which is being carried on by M. Nazarian, and has taken the organisation under his protection.

Hopeful news.—Now that the tide of Turkish atrocities has ebbed, leaving ruined homes and corpses behind, here and there we hear of some survivors, who have reached places where they have been able to communicate with their relatives abroad. And we hope that there are others similarly situated, of whom we have not yet heard.

Several letters have been received in America recently from Aleppo, Hama, Kharpout, etc., all written in Turkish, saying that they are "well" but need money very urgently—to feed their executioners, no doubt! Letters received from Kharpout state that some Armenians have returned to their homes—nobody knows how—two ministers, two teachers, and two professors of the Euphrates College, and others.

The girls' and the boys' schools of the American Mission at Talas (Cæsarea) have opened, and we are glad to hear that some of the teachers, who had been sent away from the city with parties of exiles, have made their way back again.

The Anatolia College at Marsovan has opened for work with only 60 Greek students and two Greek professors to teach. Most of the Armenian professors of this college were assassinated. Profs. Hagopian and Sivaslian paid from two to three hundred pounds each to be allowed to stay in the city. Later on they were taken away and shot.

We read in the "Missionary Herald" the following heroic account of the plucky action of Miss Charlotte R. Willard and Miss Frances Gage, of Marsovan, in following up the departed Armenian girls from the Marsovan station, and in bringing back 41 of the 63 who were taken away. The Turks forced an entrance into the mission compound to get the girls. In the presence of one of the missionaries each young woman was asked by a Turkish official if she would become a Moslem. Every girl refused. They were then packed in travelling wagons and carried away, under guards, to an unknown destination.

Miss Willard attempted to follow the party at once, but was sent back in a short time. She at length secured permission to follow her girls, after three days had elapsed. Taking with her Miss Gage, of the International Young Women's Christian Association, an interpreter, and one of the guards employed by the mission, a faithful Circassian, Miss Willard started at the earliest possible moment, having armed herself with various official documents in the way of safe conducts, permits to travel, etc., and with as large a sum of money as could be spared from the funds at the mission.

Within 48 hours she had overtaken the majority of the party. But some twenty, including the servants and poorer pupils, had been detached from the rest at Sharkishla and sent out on the southward road with exiles from other places.

Miss Willard was allowed to buy food for the Marsovan party, and by paying goodly sums to the drivers of the wagons in which the girls had been riding, she kept them in comparative comfort till they reached Sivas, where they were quartered in one of the American school buildings.

By frankly bribing Turkish officials and civil authorities, Miss Willard, after several days of effort, secured permission to take the 41 from Marsovan back to that city. Those who had been sent to Sivas included most of the young Armenian teachers, hospital nurses, and the more attractive schoolgirls.

Their return to Marsovan seemed to them and to their friends like a miracle, and a very solemn though joyful thanksgiving service was held on the morning after they got back.

Mr. Mourad Khrimian, of Sivas, who was reported as killed in the fights of Shabin-Kara-Hisar, reached Batoum on the 30th of November with 12 Armenian and 9 Greek comrades. He and his friends made their way along the sea coast. Near Samsoun they saw a sailing boat from which they were unloading flour. The party got into the boat and forced the three Turkish sailors to take them to Batoum. On their voyage they were attacked by small Turkish boats, but as they were well armed they repulsed the attacks and reached Batoum after the loss of one member and another wounded.

More details of Turkish atrocities.—In spite of Turkish denials through their Legations at Bukarest and elsewhere, we get more and more details of the horrible events which have taken place in the interior of Turkey, from trustworthy sources.

It is reported through Bukarest that Bishop Khosrov, of Caesarea, was taken out of the city, doubtless to meet the same fate as did most of his co-workers.

The Metropolitan of Trebizond, Kevork Vartabed Tourian, who was imprisoned, was ordered by the martial authorities of Erzeroum to be sent back two months ago, but he has never reached his destination.

It is with great sorrow that we learn of the assassination of Mr. Adam Yarjanian, of Agin, known as "Siamanto," the famous Armenian poet. He was killed in his wagon while on the road to Konia, with Mr. Daniel Varoujan, of Sivas, a well known man of letters, and Dr. Chilingirian. These latter were in the same wagon with "Siamanto" and met his fate.

It is reported that the monastery of Armash, with the Theological Seminary, has been confiscated by the Turkish Government. All the students of the Seminary were sent to Constantinople and turned over to the Patriarch, while the principal of the Seminary, also the vartabeds and teachers, were deported with the other Armenians of Armash.

The following are portions of a letter from Miss Mary L. Graffam, the American principal of the Girls' High School of Sivas, written from Malatia to a friend in Constantinople. We have previously mentioned the deportation of Sivas Armenians on July 7th, whom Miss Graffam accompanied as far as Malatia :—

"When we were ready to leave Sivas, the government gave forty-five ox carts for the Protestant townspeople and eighty horses, but had none at all for our pupils and teachers; so we bought ten ox carts, two horse wagons, and five or six donkeys, and started out. . . . It was as a special favour to the Sivas people, who had not done anything revolutionary, that the Vali allowed the men who were not yet in prison to go with their families.

"The first night we were so tired that we just ate a piece of bread and slept on the ground, wherever we could find a place to spread a *yorgan* (blanket). It was after dark when we stopped, anyway. We were so near Sivas that the gendarmes protected us and no special harm was done; but the second night we began to see what was before us. The gendarmes would go ahead and have long conversations with the villagers, and then stand back and let them rob and trouble the people until we all began to scream, and then they would come and drive them away. *Yorgans* and rugs and all such things disappeared by the dozens and donkeys were sure to be lost. Many had brought cows, but from the first day those were carried off one by one until not a single one remained.

"We got accustomed to being robbed, but the third day a new fear took possession of us, and that was that the men were to be separated from us at Kangal. We passed there at noon, and aside from fear nothing special happened. Our teacher from Manjaluk was there with his mother and sisters. They had left the village with the rest of the women and children, and when they saw that the men were being taken off to be killed, the teacher fled to another village four hours' away, where he was found by the police and brought safely with his family to Kangal, because the Chavoush who had taken them from Manjaluk wanted his sister. I found them confined in one room. I went to the Kaimakam and got an order for them all to come with us.

"At Kangal some Armenians had become Mohammedans and had not left the village, but the others were all gone. The night before we had spent at Kazi Mahara, which was empty. They said that a valley near there was full of corpses. At Kangal we also began to see exiles from Tocat. The sight was one to strike horror to any heart. They were a company of old women who had been robbed of absolutely everything. At Tocat the government had first imprisoned the men, and from the prison

had taken them on the road. The preacher's wife was in the company and told us the story. After the men were gone they arrested the old women and the older brides, perhaps about thirty or thirty-five years old. There were very few young women or children. All the younger women and children were left in Tocat. Badvelli Avedis has seven children. One was with our schoolgirls and the other six remained in Tocat, without father or mother to look after them. For three days these Tocat people had been without food, and after that lived on the Sivas company, who had not yet lost much.

"When we looked at them we could not imagine that even the sprinkling of men that were with us would be allowed to remain. We did not long remain in doubt; the next day we heard that a special Kaimakam had come to Hassan Chalebe to separate the men, and it was with terror in our hearts that we passed through that village about noon. But we encamped and ate our supper in peace, and even began to think that perhaps it was not so, when the Mudir came around with gendarmes and began to collect the men, saying that the Kaimakam wanted to write their names and that they would be back soon.

"The night passed and only one man came back to tell the story of how every man was compelled to give up all his money and all were taken to prison. . . . One 'company' is supposed to be from 1,000 to 3,000 persons. Ours was perhaps 2,000, and the greatest number of gendarmes would be five or six. In addition to these they sewed a red rag on the arm of a Kurdish villager and gave him a gun, and he had the right to rob and bully us all he pleased.

"Broken-hearted, the women continued their journey. . . . The Mudir said the men had gone back to Sivas. The villagers whom we saw all declared that all those men were killed at once. . . .

"As soon as the men left us the Turkish drivers began to rob the women, saying, 'You are all going to be thrown into the Tokma Su, so you might as well give your things to us and then we will stay by you and try to protect you.' Every Turkish woman that we met said the same thing. The worst were the gendarmes, who really did more or less bad things. . . . I was on the run all the time from one end of the company to the other. . . .

"As we approached the bridge over the Tokma Su, it was certainly a fearful sight. As far as the eye could see over the plain was this slow-moving line of ox-carts. For hours there was not a drop of water on the road and the sun poured down its very hottest. As we went on, we began to see the dead from yesterday's company and the weak began to fall by the way.

The Kurds working in the fields made attacks continually and we were half-distracted. I piled as many as I could on our wagons, and our pupils, both boys and girls, worked like heroes. One girl took a baby from its dead mother and carried it until evening. Another carried a dying woman until she died. . . . I counted forty-nine deaths, but there must have been many more. One naked body of a woman was covered with bruises. I saw the Kurds robbing the bodies of those not yet entirely dead. I walked or rather ran back and forth until we could see the bridge.

"The hills on each side were white with Kurds who were throwing stones on the Armenians, who were slowly wending their way to the bridge. I ran ahead and stood on the bridge in the midst of a crowd of Kurds until I was used up. . . . After crossing the bridge, we found all the Sivas people who had left before us waiting by the river, as well as companies from Samsoun, Amasia, and other places.

"The police for the first time began to interfere with me here, and it was evident that something was decided about me. The next morning after we arrived at this bridge, they wanted me to go to Malatia. . . .

"In Malatia I went at once to the commander, a captain who they say has made a fortune out of these exiles. I told him how I had gone to Erzroom last winter, and how we pitied these women and children and wished to help them, and finally he sent me to the Mutessarif. . . . I suggested that they telegraph to Sivas and understand that I had permission to go with these exiles all the way, and the answer is said to have come from Sivas that I am not to go beyond here.

"My friends here are very glad to have me with them, for they have a very difficult problem on their hands and are nearly crazy with the horrors they have been through here. The Mutessarif and other officials here and at Sivas have read me orders from Constantinople again and again to the effect that the lives of these exiles are to be protected. . . . ; but they certainly have murdered a great many in every city. . . . The Beledieh Reiz here says that every male over ten years old is being murdered, that not one is to live, and no woman over fifteen. The truth seems to be somewhere between these two extremes. . . .

"I have tried to write only what I have seen and know to be true. The reports and possibilities are very many, but the exact truth that we know at best calls for our most earnest prayer and effort. God has come very near to many during these days."

G. H. PAELIAN.

Conditions in the Caucasus, as reported by a British Consul.

The information contained in this article was communicated to the Foreign Office by its Consul at Batoum, and subsequently placed at the disposal of the Executive Committee of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugees Fund as affecting its sphere of action.

As there was no objection to publication—on the contrary, the documents furnish a strong incentive to the call for further and special relief from the public—we gladly place before our readers the entire correspondence, for which we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund.—EDITOR, *Ararat*.

From H.M. Consul at Batoum.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the question of the Armenian and Nestorian refugees from Turkish Asia Minor and the Urumiah district at present in the Caucasus.

I have to remark that the information which I here below furnish has been obtained mostly from newspaper reports and from persons interested in relief work, and that I have had no opportunity of verifying the accuracy of the statements by personal observation or investigation on the spot.

The severity of the treatment to which the populations referred to above were subjected during the past summer by Turkish hordes, as is already known to you, was characterised by exceptionally distressing conditions, painful cruelty and a series of dastardly acts, during which the major part of the Christians in the calamity stricken districts fell victims to the terrible onslaught of the Turkish troops and Kurds. A great number of the survivors, however, under unprecedented trying circumstances, hardships and other grave disabilities fled to this country. They are now being cared for, partly by the Russian Government, partly by various charitable organisations, and partly out of moneys voluntarily contributed.

It is difficult to give any reliable information as to the extent of the relief which is being given to the refugees by the Government. At best, the aid that reaches them from this quarter must be very limited. It would seem, therefore, that the principle sources from which the great bulk of the moneys used in relief work are drawn come from funds supplied by the Russian Urban Union and from charitably disposed persons abroad and in Russia, from the proceeds of bazaars

and entertainments, and from house to house collections in the Caucasus. The latter moneys are handed over to the "Armenian Central Relief Committee," to be dealt with when and as occasion may best require.

The "Armenian Central Relief Committee for Victims of the War," with its special Refugee Committee and numerous agents and delegates, I understand tend to the needs of the refugees who are now overcrowding the bulk of the southern towns and villages of the Governments of Erivan and Elizavetpol.

The "Russian Urban Union," which disposes of greater transport facilities than the other organisation and is better prepared in every way to render assistance in the more distant localities, is undertaking principally to serve the needs of refugees along the border and outside the limits of the Caucasus such as Alashkert, and of the returning refugees who are still on the roads leading towards the Urumiah and Van districts.

The head offices of these two organisations are situated at Tiflis. The winter season is now on them, and in view of the varied relief required, the large numbers of refugees that have to be attended to, the consequent great strain on their resources and the proportionately limited means at their disposal, they are hard pressed in all matters that concern housing, clothing, food supplies, equipment, and materials.

Winter accommodation for the refugees is required, fuel in large quantities is needed, warm clothing and an ample supply of food stuffs, medicines, medical appliances and disinfectants are of paramount necessity, and, in view of the extraordinarily high cost of all commodities, cannot be procured without heavy expenditure.

In view of the deplorable sanitary conditions everywhere obtaining, a good deal of sickness is present in all the localities where refugees are concentrated. The conditions under which the refugees are living huddled together in crowded, badly aired, not over clean, huts and dwellings lend to the development and spread of disease. This sickness is mainly due to epidemics of typhoid and enteric. Measles, diphtheria and other forms of sickness are also prevalent. Cases of cholera, until quite recently, were frequently registered in many localities, but under the effects of the colder weather the disease is reported to be rapidly abating. The death rate, especially amongst infants, is said to be great.

Much heavy, tiring and disagreeable work has to be performed by the very inadequate medical staffs, with the still more insignificant numerical strength of nurses and competent attendants at their disposal. They are all putting up with great hardship, and mostly are living in uncomfortable quarters. Voluntary assistance to some extent is now reaching the personnel engaged in medically attending to the needs of the refugees. A limited number of persons of Armenian nationality, both male and female, from Baku and Tiflis and other

principal towns in the Caucasus, are reported to be gratuitously giving their time and labour in helping the wearied doctors and nurses in the performance of their onerous duties, but a shortage of medicines, drugs and such-like all-important necessities is being sorely felt. The Medico-Sanitary Section of the Urban Union has just sent two lady and two male assistant doctors to the Lazaretto at Alexandropol, and one male assistant doctor to the Annenfeld Lazaretto for refugees.

Where possible hospitals are being opened and asylums for the orphans and homeless children are being established, but not nearly in the numbers needed owing to the inadequacy of available funds.

Additional particulars with statistical information as to the numbers and distribution of refugees in the towns and villages of the Caucasus situated within the limits of the refugee pale, which have been promised me and which I hope to receive shortly, shall form the subject of a further report from this Consulate to be forwarded in the course of a few posts.

In conclusion, I may say that a most difficult, heartrending and urgent situation is being faced, the refugees having had to flee from their homes—many of which no longer exist—and destitute, starving and meagrely clothed, are now thrown completely on the mercy of charitable benefactors.

MEMORANDUM ON THE CONDITION OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN THE CAUCASUS AND ORPHANS AT VAN.

(From information furnished by His Majesty's Consul at Batoum, and dated December 9th, 1916.)

In order to secure reliability in the application of funds collected in the United Kingdom to the immediate and actual relief of Armenian refugees who have sought shelter in the Caucasus, it is generally agreed that remittances should be sent to the "Armenian Central Relief Committee for Victims of the War" at Tiflis. The President of the Committee is Mr. Samson Arutunian, and the Treasurer Mr. G. M. Zurinov. A Special Refugee Committee is working under the aegis of this body, and is stated to have representatives on the spot attending to the immediate needs of the refugees. Apart from this the Central Committee has Branch Committees in all those principal towns of the Transcaucasus where the Armenian element predominates. They are all engaged in collecting for relief work.

It is a task of the greatest difficulty, in existing circumstances, without visiting the localities where refugees are now concentrated and investigating matters on the spot, to obtain an absolutely correct description of the extent of the alleged distress amongst refugees within the Armenian refugee pale. That distress is acute, indeed very

acute, is, however, universally admitted. No two opinions differ on this point. Suffering everywhere, the outlook dark, and the need for relief work, and above all pecuniary aid, urgent.

Attention is also called to the urgent necessity for winter dwellings, fuel, warm clothing, and to the inadequate staff of competent doctors, nurses and assistants to deal with the exceptional amount of illness which exists among the refugees, and in general to the insufficiency of medicines, medical accessories, equipment, disinfectants, and every other kind of commodity required for securing a minimum degree of comfort for the refugees.

Sums of Rbls. 250,000 (£25,000), Rbls. 10,000 (£1,000) and Rbls. 700 (£70) have just been remitted to Baku, Elizavetpol and Igdir respectively, for the maintenance of the refugee lazarettos at those places.

Rbls. 25,000 (£2,500)—a donation by a rich Armenian gentleman named Mantashev—have recently been spent by the Mayor of Tiflis in procuring warm bedding, as for instance mattresses, quilts and pillow cases, which have been sent to Igdir, Delijan, Novo-Bayazid and Elizavetpol for the use of refugees.

With the available funds at the disposal of the various organisations in this country, which are not relatively proportionate to the heavy expenditure called forth by the urgent requirements of the refugees from Asia Minor, relief work, obviously, cannot be undertaken by them in the needed degree owing to the very considerable numbers of fugitives who are finding their way to the Caucasus from many parts of the Empire and whose claims on the moneys belonging to the Societies are as urgent as those of the Armenian refugees.

The unsatisfactory conditions obtaining in regard to the question of relieving the refugees has been recognised by the various Armenian Refugee Committees in the Caucasus, and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Baku Branch was convened quite recently. At this meeting it was decided to endeavour to improve relief work within as short a period as possible, and several modifications in the existing system have, it appears, been recommended. It is reported that the principal features of the changes that are to take place are the issue of rations, which in future are to be partly in kind and partly as a cash allowance. The latter at the rate of 20 copecks (about 4d.) per adult and 15 copecks (about 3d.) per child per diem. A further cash allowance of two roubles per adult per month is to be issued for rental.

Mr. Papadjanov, Member of the Imperial Duma for the Armenian constituencies, who is on a special visit to the Caucasus for the purpose of gaining a close knowledge of conditions on the spot, was present at the above meeting and has been furnished with full details in regard to the situation and the working of the several Relief Committees. He has since visited the Viceroy, and it is reported has proceeded to the districts situated within the refugee pale. After this visit he will

better be able to form an opinion as to the needs of the refugees, and before he returns to Petrograd, in all probability, a Conference of delegates of all the Armenian Refugee Committees in the Caucasus will be held at Tiflis to finally discuss the urgency of the situation.

The funds at the disposal of the Tiflis Central Committee are apparently exhausted, and Rbls. 2,000 (£200) have recently been advanced by the Tiflis Municipality to meet the immediate requirements of the refugees. The Provincial Governor has been requested by the Mayor to give his support to the negotiations which are in course of progress for a grant of £1,000, by the State, until further funds can be raised for the more urgent needs of the refugees.

Meanwhile it is reported the Catholicos has received 120 bales of warm clothing from America, and Mr. Katisov, Mayor of Tiflis, another 11 bales of the same kind of wearing apparel from London for distribution among the refugees.

A large quantity of warm clothing, a portion of which has recently been sent from Moscow to the Caucasus and another lot prepared by the Ladies' Committee of the Central Refugee Committee, have been quite recently forwarded to Julfa, Dilman and Van for the refugees. Warm clothing for use of fugitives has also been sent, by the Central Committee, to Akstafa and Alexandropol.

From Van it is announced in the "Kavkazskoe Slovo" that only about 1,600 Armenians remain there, but that many refugees are returning from the Caucasus. About 4,000 fugitives are in the country adjacent to Van. Great difficulty is being experienced in procuring bread and meat. All other commodities required for domestic purposes are not obtainable. Everything has to be brought from Khoi over very bad roads, the journey occupying five to six days. Motor traffic on the roads is impossible. In view of the deplorable conditions obtaining in the town, the establishment of a hospital at Van is strongly disadvised, in fact a measure of the kind is stated to be outside the bounds of possibility. In view of the anti-sanitary condition at Van, sickness of every kind is prevalent among the orphans of massacred Armenians, large numbers of whom are now accumulated at Van and in its district. The children are fatherless and motherless. They are in terrible condition. Most of them are starved and so very emaciated that they look more like skeletons than human beings. All buildings at Van have been destroyed by fire. No places of refuge exist for the infants. The Field Lazaretto of a Russian Regiment has taken some of these orphans under their care and protection, and they seek warmth and shelter under the overcoats of the Russian soldiers.

From subsequent reports which have been received it appears that the numbers of refugees from Turkish Asia Minor and the Urumiah district who have taken refuge in the Caucasus are approximately as follows:—

In the Government of Elizavetpol : 2,788 men, 4,031 women, and 3,853 children of both sexes, or a total of 10,672 souls, of whom only 154 are in the town of the same name, the other refugees having found accommodation in the villages of the province.

For the Government of Eriuan the approximate figures are : in the town 17,000, at Alexandropol 7,000, and in the villages of the province 76,000 refugees, or a total of 100,000.

Besides the above, 29,000 Nestorian Christians and Armenians have taken refuge at Russian Julfa. They are reported to be natives of Salmas and the adjoining districts.

The total number of Armenian and Nestorian refugees in the Caucasus is therefore about 140,000 men, women and children. The above figures are, of course, only approximate and subject to correction.

As regards the refugees at Julfa it was decided at a recent meeting, at which was present the Nestorian patriarch Marshimuni, to open a central hospital for 50 beds at Dilman, another 25 beds at Aftvan, and dispensaries in the neighbourhood of this latter village.

A sum of £5,000 had been sent to these refugees by the Viceroy of the Caucasus, and was calculated to suffice till December 18th. A further sum of £10,000 a month is required to keep the refugees supplied with food, while other needs included £8,500 for the supply of beds and warm clothing, and £1,500 for the equipment and maintenance of the hospitals and dispensaries at Dilman and Aftvan. It is feared, however, that the above estimates for pressing needs at Julfa will have to be largely increased in the event of a further influx of refugees from Bashkala, an eventuality which is considered probable.

From another source has been received the following memorandum:—

THE CONDITION OF THE CHRISTIANS IN URUMIA.

(By a Native who went through the ordeal.)

As a native of Urumia and myself a refugee who has fallen into great trouble, I am writing a few short details of my unfortunate nation. For centuries as Christians we have been crushed by the enemies that are surrounding us. Our best looking girls have been forced to deny their creed; our men have been killed, our homes plundered, and our property has been robbed.

In all these troubles we lived under the Persian Government, and obeyed their rules; we never have been untrue to them, and disobedient. For the seventy past years the only help we have had has come through the English and American Missions that have been in Urumia. When the Russians arrived at Urumia it was a delight to us, we thought our rights would be clearer; of course they were much better than before;

all the country was safer than ever; this was as a dream for a few years; all of a sudden, when this terrible war began, it was almost sure to us that it would harm us, although we never dreamed that it would drop us under such a curse.

In the cold January, when even the beasts do not wish to go out from their caves, the people were left homeless, bleeding, impoverished and starving. This all happened when the Russian forces withdrew from Urumia; very many left their dear and comfortable homes, and started with them on an endless journey, which caused the death of many dear souls from cold and hunger. The rest of the Christians crowded in the American Mission compounds, with nothing left; here they were fed on a piece of bread which came through the kindness of the Missionaries. There is a great deal to tell of the misery of the people during the last winter; it was a life too low for humanity. Those that were used to comfortable beds, now slept on the bare ground. For five months of captivity we lived expecting death every minute, surrounded by sick people who needed help; our little children died by measles; our young and strong ones could not stand the terrible diseases of typhoid and typhus, while the elder people could not live such a hard life; they died in the first weeks from dysentery. Now the villages plundered and mostly burned, a good many killed, and our little girls and women tortured wickedly, very many even now have not been found; they were taken captive mercilessly. All this long time of anxiety and expectation, our time given to weeping, we prayed that God should once more save us by sending the Russians to release us.

It was a great relief when we heard that the Russians, for their own interests, were coming to Urumia once more. After their coming the people were at liberty and were able to get out in the country once more. For three months they tried to live in the villages, although a very poor and low life, with everything gone and most of the buildings burned. In these hard times we are thankful to the American Missionaries and the Russian Consul who helped us in settling down. Although in this time we did not do any evil to our enemies who had treated us so unkindly, we heard them say that if once more the Russian army should leave Urumia no Christian would be safe.

On the fourth of August the peasants crowded into the city of Urumia; they had indirectly heard about the armies leaving. It was a sight that could not be described. The sick, helpless little children frightened; all night and the next day the road that led towards the Russian border was full of refugees, although the Consul assured us that he would not leave without warning us, but the fear was so great that nothing could keep us back.

On the first attack on Urumia some of those that dwelt inside the city gates were kept safer than the villagers, although they were fined a great deal and had many hardships and losses of property, and death

had taken place in almost every home; but this second attack meant that we must leave all and flee. Friday morning, with sober face and heavy heart I left my dear home. I am grateful to God that until now my home had not been robbed, so that it was very hard for me to leave its comfort and start out in the world with no hope to return again. With many other comrades like myself we began our dreadful journey. For two families we had a little cart in which we put a few necessary coverings, a little bread, and my three little children. It was very hard for us to leave our property, but life is dearer than all the riches of the world.

On the way we met all classes of people, the rich and poor were alike; very few had carriages because our neighbours would not rent us any, some had horses and donkeys, but the majority had to walk with great bundles on their backs. It was not that we were used to such a hard trip; some sat on the road side, and wept from sore feet; it was hard to walk with shoes, and without shoes the sun burned them until the blood came from them; dear and guiltless children died on the way; it broke the parents' hearts to part with them; old and feeble men and women were left behind; little unlucky babies were born in the sight of the passengers; everyone was in need of help, but no help could be found. Like the Israelites scattered in the desert, while they had Moses to conduct them to Canaan, we had no one.

The first night we were so tired and exhausted we stopped in a place that had very little water, a dry and dusty place; our bed of ground, the pillow of stone, the sky our quilt. The little excited children cried all night; large crowds of people were coming all night, while some rested and went on, others from behind took their place. The next day we were so tired and hopeless that we wished we had died at home and had not started on such an endless and aimless trip.

It broke my heart when I met a little girl, her feet were sore, she could not walk any further; she cried, "Oh mother, oh Lord." The mother had a heavy load and could not carry the child, the father was killed, they did not have any friends. I carried the little girl on my back for about half a mile, but could not any more; it was too pathetic, why should innocent children suffer so?

Our next stop was a better place; it had splendid cold water, and shady places, but the people were so many that bread was scarce, hunger was taking place. A great many were sick by this time and could not move. This was a Moslem town; they did not like to have us there, but they could not turn us out on account of the Russian soldiers being near. There were Christian villages on our way, but by this time they had all been destroyed. Here we stopped a few days. We heard that the Cossacks had not left Urumia entirely; they had moved their Headquarters a few miles so that we had a hope that we would not lose all. From here some of us came to Tabriz, which is a

larger city, and a little safer than other places. Now we are a nation scattered like the flock without a shepherd, some living here and there a miserable life. Some have gone back to Urumia; most of them have found all their crops gone. If we had not left Urumia this second time our condition would not be so hard as it is now, the places near the city having been kept mostly safe by the kindness of the Russian Consul, who did not leave Urumia, but in the more distant places the crops and vineyards have all been destroyed. We are more than grateful to the Americans that have bought our lives by the money that has been spent for us the last winter. We hope and pray for the victory of the Allies, that through their kindness the rest of us might live. Until now one-third of our nation has perished, even the rest of us are so broken down from the strain we have had that sometimes we are hopeless. Now we are facing a winter of famine and wretchedness; homes without bedding and clothes. Of course nobody will furnish us all; besides our own sorrow those that have been living in Turkey are coming to the districts of Urumia; their condition is worse than ours.

Russian and British Policy towards Armenia.

(Continued from page 170.)

IV.

REFORMATION OF TURKEY!

A distinguished Englishman in March last, when addressing a public meeting, said that *this time* the Young Turks were animated with an earnest desire, and resolution, to introduce the necessary reforms into Armenia, had the present European War not happened.

Such was the sincere belief of an Englishman who has lived most of his life in the Sultan's capital, and who is therefore considered a great authority on the Near Eastern Question.

On the 13th July, 1878, the day the Treaty of Berlin was signed, Lord Salisbury despatched a copy of that Treaty, together with a remarkable letter to the Principal Secretary of State of Great Britain. It will be to the point to bring before our readers the concluding portion of that long despatch. Lord Salisbury stated:—

... Rich and extensive provinces have been restored to the rule of the Sultan; at the same time that careful provision against future misgovernment has been made, which will, it may be hoped, assure their loyalty and prevent a recurrence of the calamities which have brought the Ottoman Power to the verge of ruin. . . .

Whether use will be made of this—probably the last—opportunity which has been thus obtained for Turkey by the interposition of the Powers of Europe, and England in particular, or whether it is to be thrown away, *will depend upon the sincerity with which Turkish statesmen now address themselves to the duties of good government and the task of reform.*

So it was natural for the British Government to expect, and for the Armenians to believe, that in consequence of the ratification of the Convention of Constantinople (Cyprus), and of the Treaty of Berlin, the Sublime Porte—which is still so sublime in the eyes of several distinguished Englishmen—would no doubt address itself without delay to the fulfilment of those measures of internal amelioration to which the Sultan was bound by the stipulations of both those acts.

The accomplishment of the reforms in European parts of Turkey was on surer basis; it was entrusted by the Treaty of Berlin to a European Commission to be specially nominated for that purpose. But in reference to the reforms to be accomplished in Asiatic Turkey, a different course was adopted. For there the need of reform was fully recognised in both documents; but the measures by which it was to be carried out were left to be devised and executed by the Government of the Sultan in direct agreement with, or under the general supervision of, other Powers. The measures required especially for the Armenians were, by the Treaty of Berlin, to be determined in the first instance, by the Sultan, but they were to be communicated to the other Signatories of the Treaty, who reserved to themselves the right to supervise the applications of them. In the Convention of Cyprus, as amply explained in the previous article, the Sultan engaged to agree with the English Government upon the details of the reforms to be introduced into the *whole* Ottoman Empire in Asia. It was therefore evident that both the above provisions would have made it necessary for the Sultan to discuss with the six Great Powers in general, and with England in particular, the character of the policy to be adopted for the amelioration of his Asiatic administration, and particularly of his Armenian subjects.

Lord Salisbury was one of those rare English statesmen who have truly understood the Turks; he was not a believer in the reformation of Turkey from within; and it was for this reason that, by the Cyprus Convention, he established a tight grip over the Sultan, in order that, on the basis of that vital agreement, he might force upon him the introduction of radical reforms into his Empire. Imbued with this principle, and with the consciousness of England's duty, Lord Salisbury lost no time in inviting the ministers of the Sultan to commence negotiations. He had ample material at his disposal, for, the subject of reform in Turkey had already been a question for British diplomacy ever since the Crimean War; it had been very carefully considered from time to time, and suggestions of diverse natures had been made

by high authorities for the removal of evils which were deeply rooted in Turkish rule. In those parts of the Ottoman Empire where compact populations existed, professing some form of Christianity, it was considered that their surest protection would be found in some kind of local Administrative Assembly, which would be invested with sufficient powers to check gross abuses of administrative authority. Privileges of this kind existed for some time in Crete, but their operation was fatally prejudiced by animosities of race and creed. In Lebanon the action of the Representative Assemblies was more successful; and still more so in the Island of Samos, where the bulk of the inhabitants were Greeks. Under the Treaty of Berlin this experiment was to be tried in the European parts of the Ottoman Empire on a larger scale, and under more favourable conditions, as the outcome of Russia's sweeping victory in the Balkans.

But whatever chance of success those experiments might have had, it was not deemed possible that they could be safely imitated in the Asiatic provinces of the Empire. Because, the Musulman races, which constituted an enormous majority of the population, were, owing to their traditions and their habits of thought, unfitted for institutions of that kind. The Christians, to whom a representative system might have been more congenial, were not only a small minority, but were so scattered and intermixed with the Musulmans that *any separate machinery of government, designed for them alone, would have been attended with the gravest practical difficulties*. It was for this very reason that none of the other Powers, or Great Britain, had entertained, nor ever thought of entertaining, any project for a separate institution of Representative Assembly for the Armenian people. It was then considered, and the same consideration was the underlying principle in the last project for Armenian reforms in 1913-1914, that the Armenian question was essentially a demand for the simplest form of order and good government, for security against rapine, whether lawless or legal, and in order that the population might cease to suffer or decline, and that industry might flourish. With these paramount necessities in view, it seemed to Lord Salisbury that the subjects which most urgently required attention were the maintenance of order, the administration of justice, and the collection of the revenue.

It can hardly be a matter of interest for the reader of the present day to see explained in detail in these pages the policy of reforms which the British Government were then anxious to promote, and to press upon the Sultan, in accordance with the agreement entered into by him through the Cyprus Convention. But it can be summed up under the following three heads:—

1. That he, the Sultan, would institute a gendarmerie in his Asiatic provinces, to be organised and commanded by Europeans.
2. That he would institute Central Tribunals at a certain number of the most important Asiatic towns, for instance, Smyrna, Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Aleppo, Damascus, and Bagdad, which should have juris-

diction over the lower courts, and in each of which there would be a European, learned in the law, whose consent would be necessary in every judgment.

3. That he would appoint a Collector in each vilayet, who should be accountable for the revenue of the province, and who should be charged with the abolition of tithe farming, and the introduction of ten-year settlements, at the earliest date; that is to say, the conversion of the tithe into a fixed rent-charge, payable in money or kind, as might be most convenient to the people. This arrangement, known as the "settlement," has been adopted in India, and, later, in Egypt, with great success, leading to the prosperity of the country. Such an officer should also in most cases be a European.

The experimental introduction of this scheme was desired by the British Government to be started first in Armenia, as it is obvious from Lord Salisbury's remarks on the subject:—

In no part of the Sultan's dominions is the need for reform so crying as on the north-eastern frontier of the Asiatic Provinces. The ravages of the Kurds, which have no connection with political grievances of any kind, and which are onerous to the Christian and the Muslem, can only be suppressed by a police force of a military character, well-found and handled; and until that suppression is complete, all other measures for promoting the prosperity of the country will be futile.

These words were written by Lord Salisbury on the 6th August, 1878; the Note was presented to the Grand Vizier fifteen days after, and the reply was not received until October 24th. On the same day Sir Henry Layard informed Lord Salisbury of the result of his endeavours. A quotation of a few lines from his despatch might teach something to those who never seem to learn anything in connection with the political diplomacy of the Turks:—

It is unnecessary, says Layard, for me to describe at any length to your Lordship the difficulties with which I have had to contend in obtaining this answer. *There is a strong party in the Ministry, and amongst persons of great influence in this country, which resolutely opposes all interference of foreigners in its internal affairs, and which has looked upon reforms demanded by Her Majesty's Government as a violation of the Sovereign rights of the Sultan and of the independence of Turkey.* I have reason to believe that *foreign influence has been employed very energetically, and not without some effect, to encourage and support this opposition.*

Further on Sir Henry Layard observes:—

It will, I think, be found that, although the reform is one of great importance, and is calculated to promote the welfare of the country, it is one which, in accomplishment, will be attended by considerable difficulties.

The self-confident diplomacy of Great Britain was apparently not prepared to perceive that the project of reform was more likely to be brought to an *impasse*. For, what had been the policy of England in the past with reference to Turkey? In 1852 England not only refused the whole-hearted proposal of the Emperor Nicholas I. for a joint agreement concerning the future of Turkey, but, together with France, joined Turkey in the war against Russia with the explicit purpose of destroying Russia's growing preponderance in Turkey, and of transferring the right of interference in the affairs of the Turkish Empire to the Great Powers in common. Again, at the time of the Russo-Turkish war of 1878, and the Congress of Berlin, England's distinct policy was to seize the opportunity for practically annulling Russia's sweeping victory, breaking down Russia's prestige in Asia, and thereby destroying all attempts on Russia's part of exercising ascendancy over Turkey.

Now, by the Convention of Cyprus, England practically designed to secure for herself a disguised supremacy in the Sultan's dominions in Asia! Was it conceivable to expect that Russia, however politically beaten, and the other Great Powers, some of whom had in view more self-interested intentions, and had laid deeper political plans relative to the Ottoman Empire, would ever tolerate England in assuming so easily-gained a supremacy over the object of their prey? Sir Henry Layard, already at the outset in trying to give practical effect to the negotiations, begins to feel the presence of an intriguing foreign influence. He does not name it. But it certainly could not be Russia, with whom the Porte was still at deadly feud. Who else could that foreign influence be but Germany?

THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE CYPRUS CONVENTION.

The Turkish Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin had assured Lord Salisbury that *at that time* the Sublime Porte *sincerely intended* to introduce reforms into the Ottoman Empire; and on the 24th October, 1878, the Sultan, with some modifications, accepted the British Project of Reform in conformity with the spirit of the Cyprus Convention. But how the Sublime Porte proved its faithfulness in its *sincere intention* and solemn engagement, had better be shown in Sir Henry Layard's own words, a diplomatist of long and hard experience, who writes in his despatch of the 27th April, 1878, to Lord Granville, Mr. Gladstone's Foreign Secretary:—

... I have seen much of His Majesty, and have been invariably treated by him with marked favour and kindness. I believe him to be grateful to me for the services that I have been able on many occasions to render him. Nevertheless, I have not concealed my opinion from him, but have warned him, over and over again, of the dangers to which he is exposing himself and his Empire by the course which he has of late pursued, in language

which has rarely, if ever, been addressed to a Sovereign. He has received my advice and my warning in good part. At one time he acted to a certain extent upon them. Of late he has been less inclined to do so. The persons about him have succeeded in inspiring him with a profound distrust and suspicions of England. They have induced him to believe that her occupation of Cyprus, the nomination of English military Consuls in Asia Minor, the interest she shows in the Armenian population, and her peremptory demands for the introduction of reforms into Asiatic Turkey, are so many proofs of a design of annexing his Asiatic territories. . . .

... The Musulman populations everywhere, and the Christian communities in Asiatic Turkey, turn to her (England) for protection against misgovernment and oppression, and rely upon her influence and aid to obtain reforms which can alone bring them justice, rest, and prosperity. The Armenians, encouraged by the Cyprus Convention to look to her (England) for the immediate introduction of those reforms, begin to be disappointed at not seeing them already put into execution. . . . Russia is taking advantage of this feeling to induce the Armenian populations of those districts to turn to her for help and protection, and to prepare the way for future interference in Asiatic Turkey, and further annexation of her territory.

... The difficulty of coming to a settlement with the numerous questions pending between the Porte and Her Majesty's Government and Embassy has been of late very great, almost, indeed, insurmountable. . . . Matters affecting the interests of England, as well as those of Turkey, cannot be brought to be dealt with in a loyal and straightforward manner, recourse being had to every possible deceit, deception, and pretext for delay to avoid doing so.

But above all, there are the unfulfilled promises of the Sultan and the violation of his formal and solemn pledge to England. . . . But not one of the engagements entered into by the Porte with England for the introduction of reforms into the Turkish Asiatic provinces has been fulfilled. Commissions, including Christian members, have been sent, ostensibly with that object, to some of the provinces; but, according to Consular Reports, they have effected little or nothing. They were only authorised to inquire and report, without being invested with any executive powers. In some instances their presence appears to have been productive of *more harm than good, by encouraging the Christians to put forward complaints against powerful Musulman chiefs, to whose vengeance they have thus exposed themselves.* . . .

I have exhausted every diplomatic resource in endeavouring to bring the Sultan and his advisers to a sense of the danger to which the Empire is exposed in consequence of the state of things

I have described. I have used every representation and remonstrance—I may almost say menace—to induce them to put into force and to carry out loyally, and fully, the promised reforms. I have placed before him, even in writing, without reserve, the condition of his Empire, and the consequent difficulties of his subjects. I have exposed to him the incapacity and corruption of his Ministers, and of high public functionaries. I have pointed out to him the inevitable consequences of his disregard of the warnings which he has received, the forfeiture of the sympathy and friendship of England, and the possible further dismemberment of his Empire. . . . But in vain, His Majesty is ever ready to give promises which are unfortunately not fulfilled owing to *the evil influence* always ready to counteract the impression that may have been made upon him by myself. . . . It is of no use making threats which are not to be put into execution. If we are in earnest in wishing to save this country, but at the same time to reform administration, so that its populations may be justly and impartially governed, *we must be prepared to go further than mere menace.* . . .

. . . The condition of the provinces of Eastern Asia Minor is one which must attract the immediate notice of Her Majesty's Government. . . . By the 61st Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the Porte engages itself to inform the Signatory Powers periodically of the measures taken by it with reforms in Armenia; the Powers themselves are entitled to watch over their execution. Although two years have nearly elapsed since the conclusion of the Treaty, the terms of this Article have not been complied with; the condition of the Armenians has in no way improved. It is even stated to be worse than it was before the war. . . . They naturally turn to the Signatory Powers, and especially to England, for help and protection. It is absolutely necessary that something be done for them, and that the Turkish Government be given to understand that the present state of things can no longer be permitted to exist. *But the measures to be taken in this respect must be very maturely considered.* The Armenians themselves, encouraged by the sympathy which they have received in England, and relying upon the change which *they believe* is about to take place in her policy as regards Turkey, are looking to the formation of an autonomous, if not semi-independent, Armenia. *Schemes with this object proceed chiefly from Armenian Committees, from a part of the Armenian press, and from influential Armenians residing in Constantinople and in Europe.* Any attempt towards *their realisation*, under the present circumstances, *might lead to very grave consequences, and to disasters to the Armenians themselves.* It must not be forgotten that they form the minority, and in many districts the very small minority, of the population. *It is foolish and dangerous to seek to disprove this fact by ignoring*

the Kurds. The Musulmans in Asia Minor have learnt the fate of their brethren in the autonomous Christian provinces of European Turkey. They would not be disposed to submit to a similar fate without resistance. A DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY IN ARMENIA MIGHT LEAD TO MASSACRES, which would bring about the immediate interference of Russia, and its inevitable consequences. Nor would it be likely, even if successful, to preserve the nationality of which the Armenians are so proud. Russia would probably never permit an Armenian autonomous or independent State, and *any attempt to form one would only end in the absorption of the Armenians into the Russian Empire, and the ultimate extinction of this ancient nation, and its language and faith.* What the Armenians are entitled to, and what we have the undoubted right to demand for them, is good government, and their just and fair share in the Local Administration, with the immediate and effective introduction of the promised reforms into the provinces which they inhabit. . . . *

I have emphasised in italics some lines of this memorable document for the special attention of my Armenian reader so that he may ponder over the deeds of those compatriots of his who, whether residing in Russia, France, England, or America, were until quite recently so strangely like their predecessors of 38 years ago, elaborating in their great wisdom schemes or declarations for an autonomous, and even independent Armenia! It is inconceivable that these men, seemingly unconscious of the striking fact that, while in peace time, repeated and forcible schemes of the Great Powers themselves, containing not a hint of the principles of independence nor even of autonomy, were wrecked in spite of all the diplomatic support they received, yet in their utterly powerless capacity they become scheme-mongers, and expect to succeed in the solution of illusory problems, in the midst of a universal war, without imperilling the very existence of their nation!

Those damning assertions of Sir Henry Layard are not prophecy; they were stated in the course of his diplomatic duties long before the double tragedies which have befallen the Armenian people. . . And how terribly have been realised all his prediction, warning, and condemnation, concerning the Armenian Question, and the perilous danger of the scheme-makers' propositions of an autonomous or independent Armenia! Layard's statements are not equivocal; they are clear to any sensible mind that is apt to be conscious of its national duty; and they have since been, as far as diplomatic acts and documentary facts go, the unchangeable basis of the policies of the British and other Powers with regard to the Armenian Question. Yet, in times of peace or storm, they have either been despised or ignored by those who, by chance or choice, have assumed the role of saviours of the Armenian Nation, but who, in fact, have successively brought ruin upon it.

T. TONAPETEAN.

(To be continued.)

* See Blue Book—Turkey—Despatch of Sir H. Layard, April 27th, 1878.

Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

At the beginning of a New Year our hearts go out to those of our countrymen to whom it brings no joy, and for whom life has been embittered by horrors which will remain graven on their minds for the rest of their sojourn on this earth. We ourselves who live in comfort, far from the maddening accompaniments of war, have had the feeling that the joyful keeping of festivals was unsuited to the times, and how must it have been with those who are in the throes of agony?

Just before the Armenian Christmas day a telegram was placed in our hands, as if reminding us of our duty to those of our kith and kin who knew no Christmas, but needed our succour and needed it urgently. It was from Mr. A. S. Safrastian, a name familiar to us, who is now doing his duty of humanity in the very midst of our stricken countrymen, and the message runs thus:—

“Please remind Association of terrible plight of our compatriots at this Christmastide. Disease and privation of every kind continue to decimate the remnant at Van.”

Such is the message, which applies not only to Van but also to every part of Transcaucasia where Armenian refugees are congregated. It is a Christmas and a New Year's message to us here, to those to whom *Ararat* goes to the ends of the world, that to begin the New Year well our first thought should be of our unfortunately placed countrymen, whose eyes are turned to us for help in their bitter agony. We need say no more.

Our statement of account for the past month stands thus:—

Receipts:—

	£	s.	d.
Armenian and European Colonies of Sourabaya and Java	2,000	0	0
M. G.	33	6	8
L. G.	3	0	0
E. G.	2	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Diana A. Apcar in Yokohama	21	15	7
Mr. G. C. Armstrong (3rd donation)	1	5	0
Sale of patriotic postcards in Calcutta, through Mrs. Diana A. Apcar	1	1	2
Mr. G. C. Armstrong (4th donation)	1	0	0
Miss Navarth and Master Hrant Arshacony ..	1	0	0
Mr. G. Martinian	0	10	0

Receipts continued:—

	£	s.	d.
Collected in India through Mr. G. C. Thaddeus, Darjeeling:—			
Mr. A. S. Gregory, Niklidampara ..	3	0	0
Mr. A. C. Thaddeus, Niklidampara ..	2	0	0
Mr. A. C. Lucas, Calcutta	0	13	4
Mr. H. S. Apcar, Calcutta	0	13	4
Total received in January ..	2,071	5	1
Amount previously received ..	11,897	3	3
Grand total	£13,968	8	4

Expenditure:—

	£	s.	d.
Remitted to the Catholicos to December 31st ..	11,610	0	0
Remitted by Hon. Treasurer in January ..	2,000	0	0
Previously remitted direct for special case ..	10	0	0
Remitted in January for same case	10	0	0
Balance in Bank	338	8	4
Grand total	£13,968	8	4

The total sum remitted to his Holiness the Catholicos through our Association thus amounts to £13,610.

The telegram from Java to Mr. A. P. Hacobian, our Hon. Treasurer, runs as follows:—

“Receive Chartered Bank two thousand pounds collected from Sourabaya, Armenian and European communities, which please remit Catholicos for Armenian refugees. Zorab Mesrope and Co., Edgar and Co.”

We print below (we hope we shall be pardoned for doing so without permission) the touching missive which accompanied the one pound gift, shown above, from two children of Calcutta. The sentiments contained therein speak for themselves:—

DEAR EDITOR,

We are reading in the Armenian papers, as well as in the *Ararat*, that our country is devastated and empty of Armenians, and that thousand upon thousand little children are starving from hunger and suffering terribly from cold. We know that those little ones had their homes and their care-taking parents once as we have, but by a cruel fate they became homeless and orphans.

We are sending you a postal order for a small sum of 20s. from our pocket money as Christmas present, and hope that others will follow our example and try to alleviate as much as possible the cruel sufferings of the dear little children of Armenia.

Yours affectionately,

(Miss) NAVARTH ARSHACONY.

(Master) HRANT ARSHACONY.

The details of the collection made in Yokohama by Mrs. Diana A. Apcar are as follows:—

Children of Mrs. Bell's School	1.74	Yen.
Mrs. Edwin Eddison	10.00	"
Doseirei	2.00	"
Mr. F. L. Elliott	20.00	"
Bachelor	51.00	"
H. G. B.	20.00	"
Madame Henkler	25.00	"
Anonymous.. ..	1.91	"
Mr. F. L. Elliot (2nd donation) ..	20.00	"
Thanksgiving Day collection at Union Church.. ..	54.35	"
Total ..	206.00	Yen=£21 15 7

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

With the New Year some changes have taken place among our officials. Col. A. W. Chambers, V.D., has most kindly placed his services at the disposal of the Fund as Hon. Auditor. A statement of accounts of the year's work is being drawn up, and when ready a copy will be forwarded to those who have shown an interest in it. Lieut.-Col. G. M. Gregory, V.D., Chairman of the Fund, who has, notwithstanding all his other activities, very kindly acted as Hon. Treasurer *pro tem.* since July, has relinquished the latter office. The Hon. Secretary will in future also undertake the duties of Hon. Treasurer. The amount received up to date is £5,340 12s. 9d.

We owe very grateful thanks to Mr. A. G. Apcar, of Calcutta, for a second munificent contribution of £400. Other amounts received during the month are from Basil Orpin, Esq., per Women's Armenian Relief Fund, £50; Readers of "Links of Help," £10 10s.; Dr. Robert Stirling, "R.," Anonymous, each £10; Mrs. N. S. Sivrisarian (collected), £6 15s.; Readers of "The Daily Chronicle," £6 9s.; per P.

Tonapetean, "P.F.L.," each £5 5s.; Alfred T. Pannell, £5 0s. 6d.; per Joseph Rowntree (collected at Meeting), Miss Stirling, Madame de Novikoff (per H. E., the Russian Ambassador), Mrs. A. H. Wilson, Mrs. Maddy, Mrs. Cecil Sharpe, each £5; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mainprize and family, Mrs. Barrow Clough, each £4; H. J. Channon, £3 3s.; C. Stuart, Henry Carter, each £3; Readers of "The Christian Herald," £2 18s. 6d.; R. Slator (collected), £2 14s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. Williams, £2 10s.; Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund (per Mrs. Sclater), £1 6s.; J. C. Unwin, J. T. Walmsley, each £2 2s.; J. Territt Taylor, Anon., Miss M. Collas, Mrs. D. Sleight, each £2; Misses Eve, £1 15s.; Miss Ripsie Essai, £1 12s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. Beesley, £1 10s.; A. Bellingham, £1 6s.; Mrs. Curtis, £1 5s.; Rev. F. C. Hill, Messrs. Asnavorian and Sivrisarian's Employés and Friends, Rev. E. A. Evans, Miss Hodgkinson, T. Edwin D. Garrett, Mrs. Glasier, each £1 1s.; Mrs. A. Williamson, W. Dick, Sale of Jewellery, C. Eustace Stone, Miss De Costobodie, Mrs. J. H. Ziegle, Miss Clara T. Worsdall, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson, Miss E. C. May (collected), G. S. Whiting, H. L. Thomas, H. I. Mander, Mrs. Jerrold, A. L. Langshaw, Mrs. Home, Mrs. McLean, Miss A. L. Firmin, Mrs. H. Gilliat Smith, Mrs. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Harbud, "F. R. K.," Miss M. F. Paton, Anonymous, Mrs. Hill, Miss S. E. Marples, J. Pascalian, Mrs. K. Francis, Mrs. Hutchins, Miss Lomax, "Marjorie" (per Miss Parsons), each £1; Readers of "Evening Times," Glasgow, 15s.; Arthur H. Blandford (collected), 13s. 6d.; Seth Sam, 13s. 4d.; Llewelyn Jenkins, 10s. 6d.; John W. Ley, Miss C. Eyre, Mrs. Wild, Mrs. Hey, Sympathiser, Mrs. E. Day, Louis B. Prout, E. J. Blackburn, Jas. Rollason, "N. L.," Miss Emily S. Evans, F. Gregory, Miss Doubleday, Miss Week, P. and G. Carley, "C. T. C.," A. Dance, G. C. Armstrong, Mrs. Money, Anonymous, Miss Lucy I. Ling, Anon., A Friend (per Editor of "British Weekly"), Mrs. A. M. Sage, Mrs. A. J. Cash, S. Fletcher, Mrs. Southern, Mrs. F. Stedman, Miss E. A. F. Macdonald, Edward Jones, Mrs. Tower, G. H. Mew, F. C. Harrison, each 10 shillings; and very many smaller sums. A number of contributors send letters and messages of deep sympathy with the cause of Armenia.

Our sincere thanks are due to the following clergy and others who have had collections for the Fund:—Cove Village, per Rev. W. R. Williams, £2; Society of Friends in York, per Mrs. Williamson, £17 3s. 10d.; Tyrell Chapel, Plaistow (including farthings from children), 10s. 6d.; St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Harrogate, £7 3s. 6d.; St. Katherine's Royal Chapel, Regent's Park, per Canon H. Bickersteth Ottley, £1 1s.; St. James' Church, Leyland, per Rev. C. F. Fynes-Clinton, £1 16s. 1d.; Rector and Sunday School of Wigginton, Oxon., £1; Girls at St. Lucy's Home, Gloucester, per Sister Jessica, £1; Christmas Day Offertory at St. John's Church, Furness Vale and Newtown, £2 7s. 2d.; St. Paul's Church, East Ham, 10s. 6d.; Congregational Church, Midhurst, £1 1s.; Hadley Wesleyan Church, per Rev. J. Herbert Tite, £4; Sturminster Marshall

Parish Church, per Rev. James Cross, £1 17s. 5d.; Gareglefn C.M. Chapel War Fund, £1 1s.; St. Michael's, Portsmouth, Mothers' Union and Meeting, per Deaconess May, £1 0s. 10d.; Primitive Methodist Church, March, per Rev. G. Annakin, £2 2s.; Children of Gussage St. Michael School, 4s.; Peasant Arts Fellowship (collection), 10s.; Aldershot Mutual Improvement Society, £2 10s.; Girls of Mount School, York, £1 6s. 6d.; Staff of Vernon Road School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, 16s. 9d.; Staff of Land Valuation Office, Carlisle, 10s.; Members of Edgeley Women's Meeting, Stockport, 5s. 6d.; 1st Class Girls of Upper Hornsey Road L.C.C. School, 6s.

We are very grateful to all collectors for the Fund, and all subscribers, and earnestly trust that their number will increase in order that we may respond more adequately to the heart-rending appeals for help which reach us from the Caucasus. Money is the only thing we can send now.

A further contribution of £1,000 was cabled from the Fund on Dec. 21st to H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Moscow for transmission to the Mayor of Tiflis for the relief of refugees.

The cases of drugs and warm garments which we despatched last August reached Tiflis in December, and were at once sent on to Etchmiadzin for distribution.

In answer to inquiries, we hope to send further consignments of drugs and warm garments when the port of Archangel re-opens. Parcels sent to the Hon. Secretary by the first week in April will be in time.

Delightful collections of garments have come from Miss M. Collas, Working Party at Appleby, Miss Helen Douglas (Buddleigh Salterton), Miss H. Packer (New Zealand), Mrs. Adamoff, and Mrs. Cocksedge. Two cases have been sent by Mr. E. Savell Hicks, and are being kindly housed by the Armenian Ladies' Working Guild. Parcels have also come from Miss Hilda Powell, Miss L. Watson, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Main, Miss F. Blair, B.M. A case of garments has just arrived from Mrs. Michael and ladies of the Armenian Colony at Singapore.

A book of handsome photographs of the Armenian Volunteers and their leaders has come from the Armenian National Bureau at Tiflis. There can be no finer looking set of men anywhere than these hardy sons of the mountains, and the pictures possess a unique interest.

Donations and all correspondence regarding the Fund should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss E. J. Robinson 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

Announcements.

ARMENIAN YOUNG MEN'S CLUB, MANCHESTER.

The meetings of this Society during the Winter Session 1915-1916 continue at West Didsbury Public Hall, Manchester, and the fixtures for February and March are thus notified in the Syllabus:—

FEB. 5—Saturday, 3.30 p.m. Address by
Prof. G. Thoumaian, of London.

FEB. 13—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. Members' Meeting.

FEB. 27—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Debate.
K. Funduklian, Esq., Vs.
M. Bakirgian, Esq.

MAR. 11—Saturday, 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Musical Entertainment in Aid of the Armenian Relief Fund.

MAR. 19—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Addresses by
V. K. Funduklian, Esq., and
H. Ketchedjian, Esq.

MAR. 26—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. Members' Meeting.

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Map of Turkish Armenia.—Enlarged edition of the Map appearing in this periodical, on cloth to fold, in cover, 1s. per copy. Apply to Assistant Secretary, The Armenian United Association, 47A, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

The Armenian Church, by ARCHDEACON DOWLING, with an introduction by the late BISHOP OF SALISBURY. Published by the S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. (Illustrated), Price 3/6.

The Church of Armenia—Her History, Doctrine, Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition, by Mgr. Malachia Ormanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory. V.D., 5s. net (postage 4d.). Apply to the translator, 36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, London, W.

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The People of Armenia.—A lecture delivered in Paris by Archag Tchobanian, translated into English by G. Marcar Gregory. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1s. 6d. net. Now ready. Copies in any number can also be had through the Assistant Secretary, Armenian United Association, 47A, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

Travel and Politics in Armenia.—By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON. With an Introduction by Viscount BRYCE, and a Contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. (Smith, Elder.) 5s. net.

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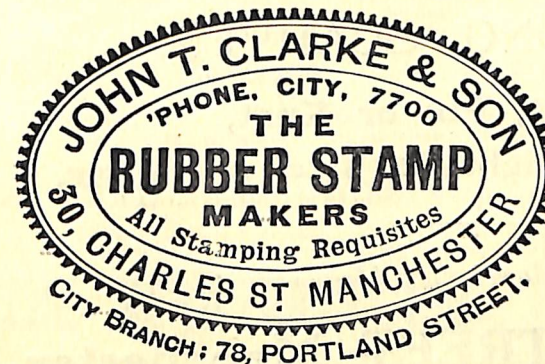
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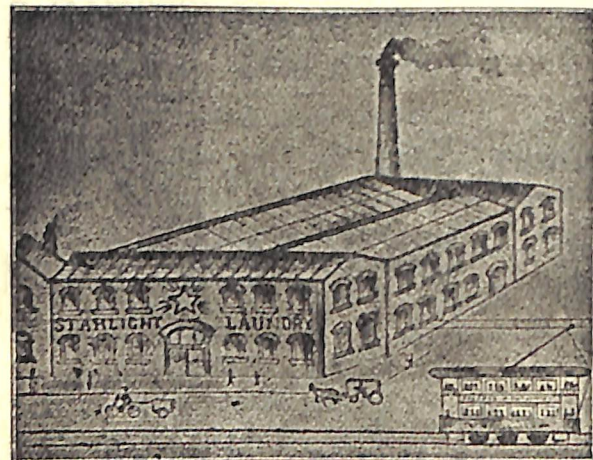
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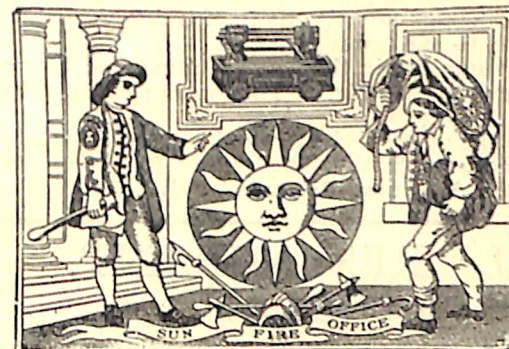
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Note.—In the review of this pamphlet in the August number of "Ararat," it was stated that it was sold by Mr. P. Tonapeteian at 53, Addison Gardens, W.

It is now also available at the office of the Armenian United Association of London, 47A, Redcliffe Square, S.W. The owner is giving 35 per cent. of the sale proceeds to the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

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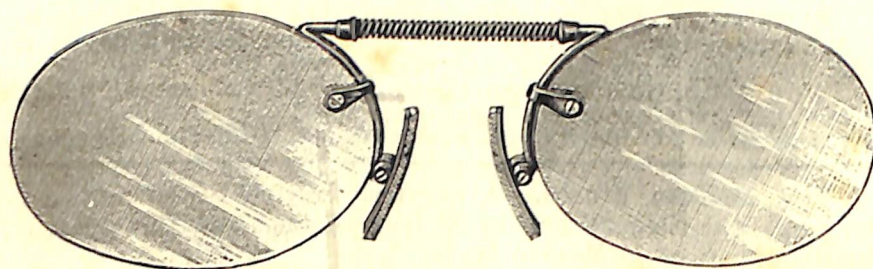
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The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

General Council:

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D. ARSLANIAN.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

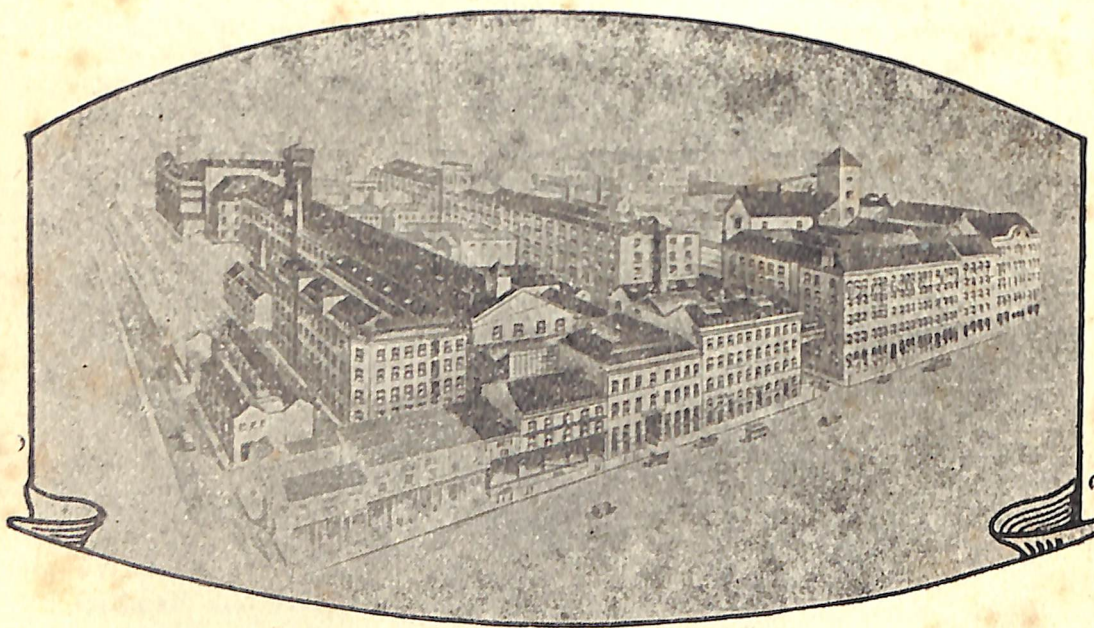
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